

The
ALAMO



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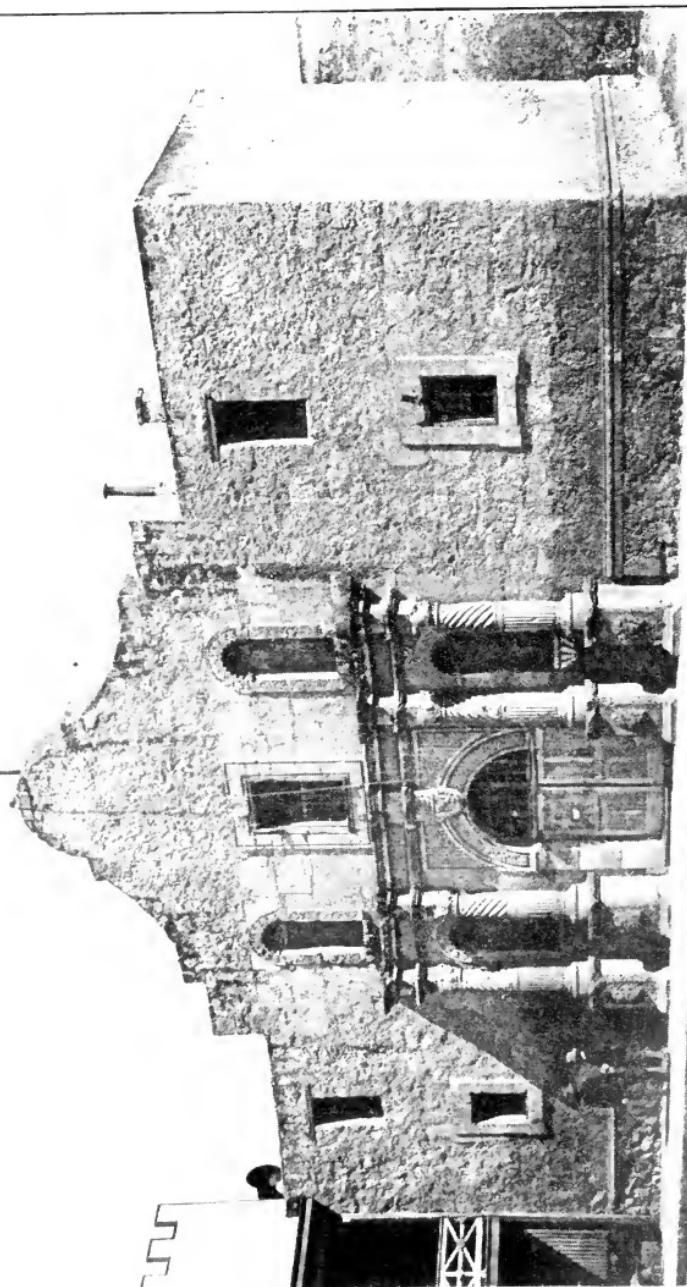
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MISSION OF THE ALAMO, 1718.—THE THERMOPYLAE OF TEXAS.

HISTORICAL SKETCH
— AND —
GUIDE TO THE ALAMO

— BY —
LEONORA BENNETT

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
1904

Oct. 3, 1904
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1904

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CHICAGO

PART I.

IN THE BEGINNING.

The history of Texas has been recorded in the blood of its martyrs.

The Lexington of the American revolution had its counterpart in the Alamo; San Jacinto was the Yorktown of the Lone Star.

Naturally, the greater American revolt was greater by virtue of the greatness of the interests involved; but the struggles, defeats and success of the Texas wars for independence are thrilling in interest and equally as illustrative of the courage, fortitude and self-denial of the American pioneer as those which characterized the contest between the American colonies and England.

In that contest an Anglo-Saxon foe pursued a civilized warfare. In the Texas revolution the enemy was a Latin. Too often was his side of it waged upon the principle that "all is fair in love and war," massacre, rapine and arson weaving their red thread throughout the course of the struggle.

The tale of the Alamo is one of the blackest of the blots with which the historian has to deal. It had no equal in the American revolution, nor yet in the war between the North and the South.

It is regretable that but little is known to most Americans of the details of the struggles for independence which at last brought the magnificent area compassed by the borders of Texas into a position to be united with the great galaxy of commonwealths by annexation. The principles involved were the same as those that put the colonies of New England in armed array against the mother country—impositions, extortions and denial of self-government. The territory contended for is well-nigh half as extensive as the original thirteen colonies, and the contestants on the American side were the offspring of those who made the United States a separate government.

It is not possible in a “Guide to the Alamo,” dedicated primarily to a portrayal of its relation to the final contest, and to a description of the fortress and church for the benefit of the visitor, to deal in extenso with the greater subject of the various struggles for Texas independence, yet it seems appropriate that a few of the more important events which have a bearing upon the chief interest under consideration shall be woven into the warp and woof of the story. This will be cursorily done, that the reader may not be wearied with the tale, it being the desire, rather, that his interest shall be intensified as he follows the story up to the Alamo and the fated immolation of its heroes upon the altar of Texas liberty.

DISCOVERY OF TEXAS.

Texas was discovered by Robert Cavalier, a Sieur de la Salle, by which title he was known, in January, 1685. La Salle had been to America before and had returned to France to get the support of his king in a voyage of discovery, his chief object being to locate the mouth of the Mississippi. He failed in this, bearing too far South in the Gulf of Mexico, bringing up on the Texas shore, on the Island of Matagorda.

The Frenchman established a fort and colony, made several tours into the interior, bearing Northeastward generally, and claimed the country for the French crown. He engaged in numerous conflicts with various tribes of Indians, but eventually died at the hands of one of his own men. It is supposed he is buried, where killed on March 16, 1687, near the Arkansas-Louisiana-Texas line, on the Texas side. The exact spot is not known. Catherwood thinks it is on the bank of the Arkansas river near Little Rock.

When La Salle set foot on Texas soil Spain owned Mexico. Its territory was supposed to extend as far east as the Mississippi, and when it became known to the Spanish crown that its neighbor on the North had been trampling upon his alleged rights in the far West the Mexican Viceroy was instructed to eject the offenders.

The Viceroy sent out an expedition upon learning the location of La Salle's original base, Fort St. Louis, in the latter part of 1686. But the Frenchman with a part of his band was at the time in the unexplored

country several hundred miles to the Northeast and knew nothing of what was going on, while the remaining colonists had succumbed to the Indians and disease. The Spaniards, under Leon, found only the bones of the French intruders and their dilapidated fort, of the latter possession being taken in the name of Spain.

But the Indians were vicious and looked equally unfavorably upon the intrusion of the French and Spanish, and eventually Leon was compelled to withdraw and return to Monclova. The tribes that gave both commanders trouble were the Comanches, the Caranchaus and the Lipans. The Cennis and Nassonites were friendly, a band of the former being the Tehas, for whom the country was named. For both La Salle and Leon the honor is claimed of giving the country its title. It probably belongs to the latter.

The French had at this time come in complete possession of Louisiana, then the enormous area embraced in what we now know as the Louisiana Purchase. But Spain claimed everything from Mexico to the Mississippi, even holding that all territory bordering on the Gulf was hers.

Thus the first contention over Texas was between the European monarchs, Louis the Fourteenth and King Charles. But the country was unexplored and unoccupied, other conquests commanded the attention of them both, and nothing was done about it for the time.

Nevertheless, the Commandant of Louisiana kept guard over the interests of his Monarch, and in 1721

decided to send out an expedition and hold the country for France. He was advised by his government to occupy all territory as far west as the Bay of San Bernard, as Matagorda Bay was then known, by virtue of La Salle's discovery. But the Indians beat them back, their force being too small to contend successfully against the vast numbers of redskins roaming the prairies.

Meanwhile the Spaniards were gradually approaching from the Mexican side, various missions having been located along the Rio Grande, the principal of which, St. John the Baptist, was laid out by de Leon upon his return from his initial search for Fort St. Louis. The Franciscan monks had conceived the great and glorious work of Christianizing the Indians and served as willing pioneers in the cause of their King. With small bodies of troops as a guard they wended their way into the interior, and thus it came that important civilizing missions were established along the watercourses from the Rio Grande to the Sabine.

Energetic traders and venturesome pioneers came in from Louisiana and from Mexico, the gradual exploring of the new country taking place from both Eastern and Western borders, opposing sentiments and interests prompting the march of progress in each instance. It is plain to be seen that eventually there must come a clash.

Various spirited conflicts between Frenchmen and Spaniards occurred in Texas while France and Spain were at war at home, none of them amounting to more

than sharp skirmishes, the honors being equal most of the time, the French gradually driving the Spanish back from the Sabine and Nacogdoches to San Antonio, where the latter made so effective a stand that the French retreated to their base without attack, not again advancing so far into their interior but satisfying themselves within their own recognized territory and fortifications at Natchitoches, in Louisiana proper.

Spain was making her possession stronger year by year by introducing colonists from Mexico and the Canary Islands, these locating along the Rio Grande, in the rich valleys back from the coast, and along the Gulf shore, where ships could get in. The monks worked along the water courses to the foothills, civilizing the Indian and pressing him into service, together with the Mexicans and Canary Islanders, in the building of missions, churches, fortifications and schools. Thus Indianola, Lavaca, Matagorda, San Antonio, San Jacinto, Nacogdoches and other early settlements have their origin in this Christianizing march of the Franciscan fathers.

In 1768 France settled all possible cause of contention between herself and Spain over territory West of the Mississippi by giving clear governmental title thereto, and the Castillian became the acknowledged owner of everything up to the big waters.

But this action irritated the French and Indian colonists in Louisiana and resulted in the organization of various raiding parties, which more than once succeeded in destroying missions and temporarily driving the Spaniards back from the border. There were

also the usual frontier troubles between the Indians and both Frenchman and Spaniard, little progress toward opening the country for actual settlement being made during the eighteenth century.

Missions had been established at various important points, it is true, and here and there a good-sized trading post had sprung up under the fostering care of the government and the priests. But of genuine settling there was little, practically none.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MISSIONS.

The order in which the various missions were established, with dates, is given, in so far as possible:

St. John the Baptist, on the Rio Grande, near where Laredo now stands, in 1690.

The Alamo, on the Rio Grande in 1703, removed to San Antonio in 1718, and to the spot on which it now stands in 1722.

Our Lady of the Guadalupe, at Victoria, in 1714.

Mission Orquizacas, on the San Jacinto River, in 1715.

Mission Dolores, near San Augustine, in 1716.

Our Lady of Nacogdoches, 1715.

Mission Adaes, East of the Sabine River, 1718.

Mission Espiritu Santo, at Goliad, then La Bahia, 1718.

Mission San Jose, San Antonio, 1718.

Mission de la Concepcion, 1731.

Mission San Juan de Capistrano, 1731.

Mission San Fernando, 1731.

Mission San Franciscan de la Espada, 1731.

It will be noticed the Spaniards and monks must have been exceedingly active for a few years in locating these important posts for the holding of the country for Spain, and it will doubtless be noticed with equal celerity that no subsequent period of anything like equal activity is recorded. It is reasonable to assume that the work mapped out in the second decade of the century was quite enough to keep both the government and the church more than ordinarily busy for a long time thereafter.

During the middle and latter parts of the eighteenth century the various missions were developed and large associated Indian schools were constructed. In the main these missions were of the same general character, here and there successful effort at elaboration and imposing decorative effect being accomplished, as at the Mission San Jose, the Alamo, and a few others. Special architects among the Franciscans and from Spain put their best talents into the work, the effect being salutary upon the Indians and satisfying to the Spanish and Canary Island colonists, who found elegant church homes, splendid Catholic schools, and well-established trading posts at convenient distances from each other, away out in the wilds of the frontier, the whole giving a connected chain from the Western Louisiana line to Mexico.

During this period there also occurred a great many exceedingly interesting historic incidents which cannot be elaborated in a brochure like this. They afford highly entertaining reading, however, and deserve greater attention than they have received, especially

among Texas readers. Many a beautiful romance is woven into the essential history of the state, while many an eventful occurrence, worthy the pen of an Irving or a Bancroft, has been allowed to pass unrecorded and unsung.

AMERICA'S AWAKENING.

Large droves of wild horses and cattle roamed the prairies of Texas. The latter were Spanish breeds, doubtless from stock originally imported from Spain and the Canaries into Mexico, from which the present long-horned cattle of Texas sprung, the former Indian and Mustang ponies, strengthened by the blood of the Arab imported in the early settling of Mexico. Drovers of as many as from two thousand to five thousand horses dotted the beautiful plains and valleys of the New Philippines, as Texas and the Northern part of Mexico were known at that time in Spain, while cattle were equally numerous, roaming everywhere at will without herder, drover or restraint.

The old San Antonio road had been blazed by St. Denis almost a century before history tells of the settling on the soil of Texas of an American foot. That roadway led from Nacogdoches to Monclova. Even as late as well toward the close of the nineteenth century horsemen and wagoneers traveled the path St. Denis had ridden when first he visited Monclova in the interest of better trade relations between the French in Louisiana and the Spaniards in Mexico.

It extended beyond Nacogdoches far into Louisiana and the northeast; but at Nacogdoches was the real gateway to the New Philippines. The Mission of Our Lady, at that point was the first Spanish settlement encountered, the natural rendezvous of explorers, traders and adventurers desiring to enter the forbidden field.

Just at the close of the eighteenth century, in 1797, the first white man set foot on Texas soil, so far as history gives record. The American army operating along the Mississippi and in Louisiana needed remounts and sent an emissary to the commander at Nacogdoches, Senor Commandant (Major) De Nava, to secure permission, if possible, to replenish its stock from the prairies a hundred miles to the West, the story of the droves of mustangs there to be found having been carried by French and Indian scouts to the commander of the American forces.

Philip Nolan was the American emissary of the American army. It was with difficulty that he secured the desired permission, Spain's experiences with France making her wary of allowing any other government to set its foot on Texas soil. But Nolan was persistent and diplomatic, and eventually got De Nava's consent, together with a body guard of Spanish troops from the little garrison, immediately setting out for a part of the territory as yet unexplored, even by the Spanish. But his guides knew their way, and they penetrated the country as far West as where Waco now stands, treating with various tribes of Indians as they went, the Wacos among them.

On his first journey for stock he secured above twelve hundred mustangs, without money or price, except the expenses of the original outfitting and the cost of the presents he carried as a peace offering to the redskins.

Nolan made a second trip in 1800 for the same purpose, traversing almost the same ground, making his start from Natchez, on the Mississippi, armed with a permit from the Governor of Louisiana. This trip proved his undoing. The Spanish had become jealous of his ability to make friends with the Indians and coveted the splendid lots of horses he had been able to round up by their assistance, and De Nava had come to look upon him with suspicion, as a possible adventurer who might have designs upon the country, perhaps an intention to form a new American colony on Spanish ground. He therefore issued orders for his arrest and sent a body of troops after him. Treacherous Indian spies, serving as guides for the Spaniards, learned of Nolan's whereabouts and he was attacked and killed after a gallant defense. His party numbered but a score of men, several of whom died with him, the rest being confined for life, first in Texas and then in Mexican prisons.

Nolan had withdrawn from the American army and was operating solely on his own behalf at the time his life was sacrificed to Spanish jealousy and fear.

A GAME OF SHUTTLECOCK.

Meanwhile a game of shuttlecock was being played with the colonists of Louisiana. Finding them un-

willing and recalcitrant subjects Spain deeded their country and citizenship back to Bonaparte about the time of Nolan's death, and three years later diplomatic negotiations and purchase made them and that country the property of the United States.

This carried the Southwestern border of the American republic down to the Spanish line, and America became an interested party in Spain's occupancy of the Great Southwest.

The old boundary dispute had to be settled.

The Spaniards claimed everything to the Mississippi.

The United States believed her purchase embraced everything as far West as the Rio Grande, in those days confused on the maps with the Nueces.

The Easternmost Spanish mission and settlement was still Nacogdoches.

The French had turned over to the United States her Westernmost trading post and fortification, Natchitoches, on the opposite bank of the Sabine.

The stream was the temporary boundary line. It alone separated the two forces; its crossing by either meant war.

For a time the situation was dangerously threatening.

The Mexican governor moved his headquarters from San Antonio, where he was in closer touch with his home government, to Nacogdoches, and the American commander had gone to the front from New Orleans.

Each side was ready for the conflict if emergency

torced it. Each parried for time. Each strove to beat the other in diplomacy.

The Spaniards won.

They secured a temporary delay by virtue of an agreement to the effect that a seven-mile strip of ground, extending West from the Sabine to the Arroyo Hondo, should be neutral land until the matter could be settled at Washington and Madrid.

The American forces had viewed the promised land, but had been forbidden to enter and were disappointed.

Naturally, intrusion by Americans as individuals was dangerous, the Spaniards guarding their interests too zealously for personal safety.

THE BEGINNING OF THE INEVITABLE.

Destiny has guided the course of the American people. Their watchword has been progress, their march ever forward.

Without large dividing lines Texas could not always remain Spanish domain. Nolan had his prototype in a young American lieutenant, Augustus Magee, who while the war of 1812 was attracting attention decided upon a coup in Texas which he hoped might make it an independent republic, joining hands with a former Mexican revolutionist for the purpose of an invasion.

They gathered together the first independent invading party that ever attempted to strike Spain down in her acknowledged possession of the country, their

troop being composed of adventurers who had flocked to the neutral ground near Nacogdoches, dissatisfied Spanish soldiers, Mexicans of adventurous nature, Indian guides and half-breeds, together with a handful of discharged soldiers and reputable Americans out for the love of adventure and legitimate exploitation—in all several hundred men making up a formidable invading army.

The first conquest of this first invading troop from American lines, although it started from the neutral strip and was composed largely of others than Americans, was the capture of the fort and mission of Nacogdoches, the Spaniards offering no resistance but fleeing Westward toward San Antonio upon the first appearance of the invaders.

Gutierrez, the defeated Mexican revolutionist, was in command, Magee having gone to New Orleans, to try to raise money for the purposes of the war. To the American, however, belongs the credit, or the blame, whichever the historian and the reader may allot, of the original effort at the republicanizing of Texas.

Magee soon returned from New Orleans, and with recruits joined forces with Gutierrez on the Trinity, the combined army of republican stragglers and adventurers following the St. Denis road, capturing Goliad and taking the Spanish garrison into their ranks, strengthening their armament by the addition of the cannon which La Salle had brought from France a century and a half before. He died at Goliad of consumption, but not until his force had engaged

in serious conflicts with various wings of the Mexican armies sent out to destroy them.

An American named Kemper succeeded Magee in his relation to the command, which was able to withstand all the onslaughts of the Spaniards, who finally gave up their siege and attacks upon the fortified mission and retreated to the chief Spanish headquarters at San Antonio.

THE FIRST REAL BATTLE.

Gutierrez and Kemper followed in hot pursuit and a bloody and disastrous battle was fought only nine miles from this city, on the Rosillo, the Spanish armies, which greatly outnumbered the Republicans, suffering an ignominious and overwhelming defeat. This desperate battle meant a great deal for the Republican forces. If defeated their cause was doomed. If victorious there was a chance of making of the mighty empire of prairie and forest, of hill and valley, of upland and lowland, of Indians and cattle and mustangs, a new republic where the pioneer American might build for himself a home and castle.

The battle of Rosillo Creek settled the fate of San Antonio. The city surrendered in advance of the arrival of the Americans, but seventeen Spaniards remaining to guard the Church and Fortress of the Alamo when the invading army marched into the city with their banners flying.

In connection with the battle of Rosillo an unfortunate slaughter of surrendered and captured officers occurred under the vengeful order of Gutierrez. The troops who had surrendered were freed, the officers

paroled. But the following day the latter were brutally put to death, as a safeguard against possible future danger from their influence over their men. This cruelty doubtless had its effect in influencing the determination of the Americans in the Alamo, in their fateful defense against the armies of Santa Anna, to withstand to the last.

The brutality was due to Mexican orders, not those of an American commander. But all were republicans, and republicanism was held to blame.

Though defeated so ingloriously the Spaniards were not dismayed and under command of Elisondo, San Antonio was attacked on June 4th of the same year, 1813, by a well-organized and equipped army from Mexico.

The republican forces were well-intrenched and behind their fortifications, however, and successfully withstood the onslaught, defeating the Spaniards at a loss of above a thousand men. For a time this satisfied the Mexican soldiery that the republicans were a worthy foe and they held the city undisturbed.

But it was only for a time.

Two months later, on the 18th of August, the tide was reversed.

Kemper had returned to Nacogdoches after the battle of Rosillo, determined not to go back while Gutierrez was in command, the horrible massacre of Governors Salcedo, Herrera and Cordero, with surrendered Mexican officers at Rosillo, meeting with his violent protest and unqualified condemnation. Several of the best American officers resigned and re-

turned with him, and later Gutierrez handed the command over to General Toledo and retraced his steps to Nacogdoches, with the intention of recruiting more troops and gathering a large fund for the pursuit of the war.

But Toledo made a fatal mistake. General Arredondo had come over from Mexico to succeed Elicesondo, and had satisfied himself with intrenching his forces on the Medina, fourteen miles West of the city, from which point he intended keeping up a series of harassing operations.

Instead of resting secure behind his fortifications and the Mission walls of the Alamo Toledo decided to go out and force the fighting.

A terrible reverse was the result, practical annihilation of the Republican army following a fruitless attack upon the intrenched Mexicans. Less than a hundred of the nine hundred troops composing the attacking force escaped, and the massacre of the captured officers at Rosillo was avenged by the administration of a similar fate to the captured at Medina.

The war had degenerated into a brutal hand-to-hand conflict, without quarter, and with certain death following surrender.

Ninety-three escaped Americans, this including such Mexicans, half-breed French and Indian admixtures as were classed as Americans for republican purposes, beat their way back to Nacogdoches, and the first war for Texas independence was at an inglorious end.

THE SECOND ATTEMPT AT INVASION.

The ill-fating of the Magee-Gutierrez-Toledo army checked the spirit of republicanism for the time, but it would not stay down. Five years after the battle of the Medina a Tennessean who had served with General Jackson at New Orleans, Dr. James Long, who had become imbued with the martial spirit and aspired to immortalize himself by making Texas free and establishing a miniature American republic there-upon, organized an army of invasion of three hundred adventuresome spirits at Natchez and marched to Nacogdoches, that outpost having become so accustomed to the changes of war that it surrendered peacefully upon the approach of the intruding force.

General Long actually founded a "Republic of Texas" at Nacogdoches at that time, though the successful republic eventually annexed to the United States was the product of a later effort. Yet Long organized a government, established a legislature, formulated and set up revenue and immigration laws, and otherwise tried to accomplish that which failed of success until a quarter of a century later.

Long's government was overthrown by the Spaniards while he was absent trying to induce a Frenchman, Lafitte, successfully installed on the Island of Galveston, to join him in his struggle against the Mexicans, and again the attempt to make a republic of Texas had failed.

Lafitte was a piratical spirit from New Orleans who had found the sandy island upon which Galveston is

now located to be a suitable place from which to roam the sea. He had organized a considerable colony, almost a thousand, all told, of French and Indians, to whom his word was law, and had accumulated large wealth from privateering among the Spanish vessels which sailed the Gulf.

Lafitte had aspirations of his own in regard to a republic in Texas, but declined to join Long in his movement in that direction, having the foresight to understand that a considerable and effective fighting force would be required to overthrow the Spanish governor.

All of Mexico was immediately behind the latter, with Spain across the seas to sustain the Mexican colonists in the defense of the rich frontier.

Lafitte was wise. Both the Magee and Long expeditions failed for lack of numbers and reinforcements. Each played a part toward the eventual liberation of Texas from the Mexican yoke, but both were premature.

Long made a second effort in 1821, getting as far West as Goliad, then La Bahia, with but fifty-two men, who were subsequently easily overpowered by a fragmentary Mexican force, the leader being sent to Mexico City as a prisoner, where, after eight months' confinement, he was killed by a Mexican soldier immediately after being pardoned, a practice quite the rule in those early days.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

The beginning of the end of Spanish domination dates from the granting to Moses Austin of permission to introduce colonists in Texas, in 1820.

Austin was a Missourian of enterprise and pioneering proclivities, who succeeded only after a great deal of effort in procuring a severely restrictive permit to occupy a selected section with his colonists. The latter would have to come from Louisiana, at that time a very much larger territory than now. They had to be of good character, swear allegiance to Spain, and belong to the Roman faith. They were to be free from taxation for a period of six years, and to each able-bodied man 640 acres were to be allotted, to each married woman 320, to each child 140, and to each master 80 acres for each slave he owned.

Austin died before he could perfect the contract, but his son, Stephen F. Austin, then twenty-eight years old, took up the work and later introduced the colony in the winter of 1821.

Hardly had the newcomers started to set themselves up on farms and clearings before Mexico revolted against Spanish domination and a war was on in the Mexican peninsula. The Spanish governor at San Antonio could not fulfill all the terms of the contract, this necessitating a trip to the City of Mexico by the younger Austin for the purpose of securing his rights and learning what might be the probabilities for the future of his people. Their shipload of supplies had either been captured by pirates or lost in a Gulf storm,

and the Indians harassed them continually. Yet they held on, and succeeded in planting the tree of liberty from which grew later the young republic.

Their leader's journey was a long and tedious one, fraught with many dangers and delays, and not until the summer of 1823 was he able to get back from the Mexican capital, with such assurances of a safeguarding of interests as the precarious government was able to give. The section occupied by the colonists extended from the Brazos to the Colorado, in which the towns of Austin, Bastrop, Gonzales and Victoria had been plotted, as plotting went in those early days.

Two years later Stephen Austin got permission to bring in five hundred more families, while other colonists had been given smaller grants and the settling of Texas had been fairly begun.

To Hayden Edwards, a Kentuckian, a grant had been given near Nacogdoches which set up trouble. There was constant dispute between the colonists and the Mexicans as to the ownership of ground, water rights, timber, etcetera, increasing friction resulting. Finally, during the absence of Edwards for another colony, the Mexican governor annulled his grant and ordered the leaders out of the country. They made a feeble effort at resistance, organizing themselves into an army called "Fredonians," but being unable to incite the Indians and other colonists to war gave up the struggle and returned to Louisiana.

GALLINGS OF THE MEXICAN YOKE.

Spain had been overthrown in Mexico and that country had become an independent government. Texas had previously been a separate department, or province, with San Antonio as its headquarters, all business between the colonists and the government being transacted at that point.

In 1824, however, Texas was added to Coahuila, whose capital was Saltillo, only a department commander being left at San Antonio, and it thus became necessary for the colonists and government to deal at long range, to the great inconvenience and oftentimes great loss of the former.

This error of the new Mexican government was a fatal one.

But President Bustamonte and his advisers had come to look with suspicion and fear upon the energy and success of the Americans, who were making a formidable population, and who had the courage to ask for such reliefs as they considered themselves entitled to.

The Americans were a sturdy lot of men, larger in stature than the Mexicans, well-educated, accustomed to a republican life at home, they knew what justice and injustice were, and as straightforward, outspoken, courageous citizens had little patience with the dilatoriness, lack of decision, and disposition to treachery which characterized the conduct of many of the Mexican officials.

Friction increased under the new regime. The

Americans became restless, and with radical changes in the attitude of the government toward them, the former gradually sealed its fate.

Among especially irritating edicts from Mexico there came the radical change of the prohibition of the further introduction of slaves. Most of the colonists were from slave-holding sections of the United States and resented this strenuously.

Then orders were issued to the Mexican constabulary to limit the number of firearms in a family to one, usually a fowling piece. The Indians were still very troublesome in sections, and frontier colonists would not allow themselves to be disarmed.

An extravagant system of taxation was inaugurated and special Mexican collectors and assessors were appointed who worked unusual and irritating hardships upon the people.

The water right problem, along streams and irrigation ditches, proved an especially annoying one. Mexican inspectors rode the streams and canals during dry seasons, guarding sluiceways and water gates, allotting plenty of water to Mexican farmers and depriving Americans of their just share.

Appeals to the courts were in vain. The judiciary were all Mexicans, chiefly military officers, the rule practically that of martial law.

The government was committing its own suicide.

Meanwhile, an insurrection was on in Mexico. Bustamente had proved himself an unwise and tyrannical ruler and Santa Anna, of the Mexican Army, had organized a military resistance. The colonists helped

COMISION
DE COLONIZACION
EN TEXAS.

—
Seccion 1.^a

Gentlemen;

In answer to your
to your official note dated
the 23. inst. in which
you request that I should
write with the Corporation
which you represent, for
the purpose of praying
the Supreme Federal
Government for the
release of Col. Austin,
I have the pleasure
to state to you, that
in compliance with
your wishes I have
addressed both the Govt.
of the State and the
Supreme of the Repu-
blic on the subject of
Col. Austin's liberation,
and that I ascertain

N

the greatest hopes
for his release.

It will afford me,
Gentlemen, great
satisfaction to contri-
bute to promote the
prosperity of Texas;
and in that expec-
tation, I have the
honour, Gentleman
to be Y. H. J.
God and Liberty.
J. Philippe de Huston
July the 24th 1834.

Mess. Rob. Peebles
and Thom. Gay,
Members of this
Illustrious Assem.

San Nepomuceno

Almonte

elect him president, and hopeful of better treatment at his hands a convention was held at San Felipe in the spring of 1833 and separation from Coahuila and a return to former conditions were asked for. Austin was sent to Mexico with the convention's memorial, but met with antagonism and his mission failed, and he started back to Texas, after having written advising the colonists to take steps toward the organization of a separate republic.

His letter was intercepted, and after getting as near home as Saltillo he was arrested, taken back to the capital, and imprisoned for almost two years.

Santa Anna proved to be as unwise an official as Bustamente, in so far as the colonists were concerned. He ordered them all disarmed, sending a body of troops to force acquiescence, and imposed taxes and burdens which the Americans would not bear.

Various conferences and conventions were held, at various times and places, each tending to further cement the Americans and decide them upon a revolution unless relief was given, and as the Mexicans increased their garrisons, sending new troops in from Mexico, a call was finally issued for a Consultation, to be held at San Felipe, on the 16th of October, 1835, at which the colonists should agree upon some course of action which should be definite and effective.

THE CONFLICT BEGINS.

The initial conflict for independence occurred at Gonzales on October 1st. The town had a cannon

which had been given it by the government four years previously as a defense against the Indians. Under a radical and complete disarming act a Mexican colonel was sent with a detachment to get this gun. The citizens declined to surrender it and the next morning turned it upon the enemy, who beat a retreat with a loss of several men.

The second conflict was at Goliad, where a band of Texans numbering fifty or sixty men, mostly planters, marched upon that post, under command of Col. Ben Milam, capturing the garrison, including several hundred stands of arms, which the colonists needed badly, a number of cannon and a good supply of ammunition and military stores. The movement was spreading. The colonists were determined to have justice and independence if they had to fight for it.

The San Felipe Consultation had no need to settle the question. The Gonzales and Goliad incidents had already decided it. The people were notified of those occurrences and were asked to cast their votes by the bark of the rifle. They came from farm and plantation, from ranch and pasture, from the desk and the counter, from the rostrum and the pulpit. A spirit of absolute independence prevailed throughout all the settlements, and a considerable army gathered at Gonzales before the Consultation at San Felipe had ended. Austin was elected Commander-in-Chief, and war was on.

Meanwhile, the Mexicans were not idle. Santa Anna had sent his brother-in-law, General Cos, one of the best commanders of the Mexican army, to take charge

at San Antonio. Reinforcements to the garrison had arrived, the intrenchments were strengthened, and the Mexicans made preparations to put down the insurrection in its incipiency, as the Spaniards had done so many times before, always with Mexican troops.

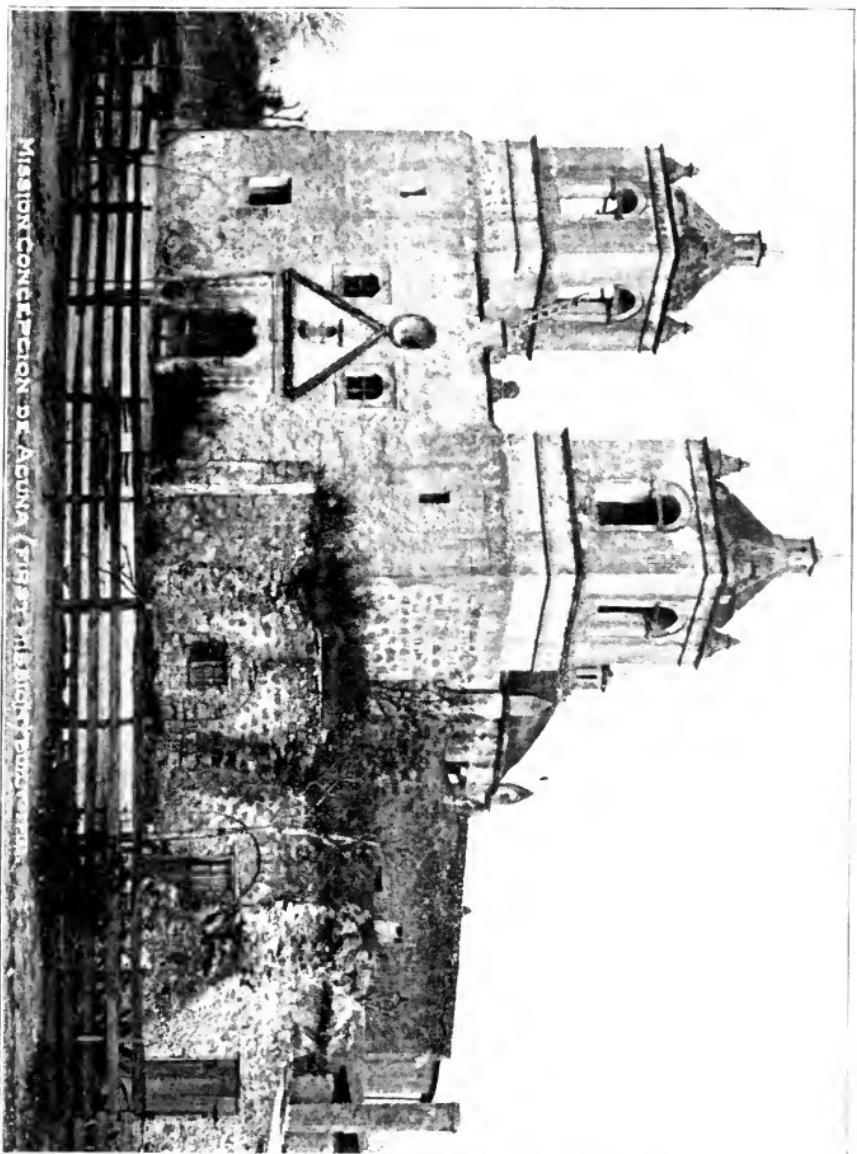
THE AMERICAN FORCES MOVE WEST.

Austin realized that it was important to have a base of supplies as far to the West as possible. He therefore early took up the Westward march, his force being added to as he went, his council consisting of Houston, Bowie, Travis, Fannin, Crockett, Milam, Burleson and Deaf Smith, as courageous a council as ever engaged in war, pioneers of the best and bravest type, men without fear, each a power in himself.

Leaving Gonzales with three hundred and fifty men, not a large army but a determined one, by the time he got to the Mission de la Espada (the Mission of the Sword), known as the Fourth Mission at San Antonio to-day, the number had increased to above six hundred, well-armed, confident and determined to set Texas free.

From la Espada, nine miles south of the city, Austin sent couriers to San Antonio with a demand upon General Cos that he surrender. The couriers were accorded scant courtesy and received a negative answer. The bridges had been burned, the opposing commanders had thrown down the gauntlet.

It took Austin and his council but a few minutes to decide what to do, and the next morning, October 27th, Colonels Fannin and Bowie were sent with a



MISSION DE LA CONCEPCION DE ACUNA, THE FIRST MISSION BEFORE WHICH INITIAL
SKIRMISH TOOK PLACE.

detachment of less than a hundred men to take up their station at the first mission, that of the Immaculate Concepcion, two miles south of the Alamo, which was the Mexican fortress and headquarters. From that point they threw out their lines, preparing to harass the enemy while the main force was being further augmented by recruits from the Eastern colonists, to whom word about the uprising had been sent.

INITIAL SKIRMISH BEFORE SAN ANTONIO.

At the first mission the first San Antonio skirmish occurred. The Mexicans were the aggressors. General Cos sent out a force to drive Fannin and Bowie back, attacking them at daybreak on the 28th.

The attacking party consisted of a troop of cavalry and a battalion of artillery, with a six-pounder, which opened early in action upon the Americans, under cover of its fire the cavalry charging the lines of the invaders with the intention of riding them down and breaking their battalion into fragments. But every American was a deadly shot with the rifle and the Mexicans could not stand the fire. After a fierce advance they were compelled to retreat, and before they could re-form under the cover of their gun the invaders had charged upon the artillery and captured the cannon in a desperate hand-to-hand conflict, in which they inflicted severe loss upon the Mexicans and lost their first hero in the War for Independence, the only loss sustained in the skirmish.

The booming of the cannon told Austin that the action was on and reinforcements were hurried to the

mission. They were not needed that day, so well had Fannin and Bowie done their work; but the main army was brought forward from la Espada and the investment of San Antonio was begun.

Uneventful skirmishes before the city occurred during the next few days and well into November, and to the colonists' men had been added three companies of troops from New Orleans and Mississippi. General Edward Burleson, who had had extensive experience as an Indian fighter, succeeded to the command, Austin having resigned to go to Washington as special commissioner of the Insurgents, in the hope of securing government recognition as combatants and the good offices of the great republic for a satisfactory cession of Texas by Mexico.

Burleson kept his forces closely in hand, waiting for reinforcements, before attacking the Alamo, but the colonists were impatient for action and the army grew dangerously restless.

THE SIEGE OF BEXAR.

Finally, upon having definite word from the enemy's headquarters of his weakness, Col. Milam led a volunteer troop of three hundred, for several days a hot skirmish being kept up on the West side of the river, from Soledad street to the present site of the Santa Rosa Hospital and City Market House, Milam being killed in the court of the old Veramendi House, still standing on Soledad, between Commerce and Houston, at the head of Veramendi street.

Col. Johnson assumed command when Milam fell,



COL. BEN. MILAM,
Killed at the "Siege of Bexar" December 6, 1835.

and the straggling fighting was continued for several days, until, on the 9th of December, the Alamo surrendered and for the first time in history the fortress and San Antonio came into complete possession of the American colonists.

General Burleson had not participated in the five days' fighting, the original three hundred men who had volunteered to go with Milam and Johnson having won the victory. He finally secured the surrender of Cos, but not until the courageous little band had fought their way in hand-to-hand struggles into all the strongholds of the town except the Alamo.

The flag of the republic had been raised over the fortress, but unfortunately not to stay.

LEADING UP TO THE ALAMO.

Following the gallant capture of San Antonio and the occupation of the Alamo by the colonists various interesting occurrences took place, too many, by far, to be enumerated here, bearing upon the subsequent liberation of Texas from the galling yoke of Mexican rule.

The Convention of Consultation elected a provisional government but decided not to withdraw from Mexico and set up a republic, contenting itself with asking home rule and the annulment of restrictive and unjust laws. This failed to satisfy the more radical of the patriots and from time to time sporadic outbursts by enthusiastic bands of republicans kept the agitation

between the colonists and the Mexican troops at its height.

Henry Smith was elected provisional governor and to General Sam Houston was assigned the commandership-in-chief of the armies to be raised. Austin, Archer and Wharton were sent to Washington as a board of commissioners for Texas, it being thought wise by the consultation to make every effort to secure needed relief and reforms through diplomacy if possible, the resort to arms to follow only as a last recourse, now that the colonists had shown their ability to overthrow military rule if required and their subsequent willingness to accept a continuation of relations with Mexico under a home government and just administration.

Nothing came of the efforts toward peace. The uprising had become too general. The tastes of victory which had savored the mouths of the colonists but whetted them for complete independence. On the other hand, the Mexican army felt the disgrace of the defeats of Goliad and San Antonio and were bent upon revenge. Large numbers of trained soldiers were sent to increase their forces, and Santa Anna, who had succeeded in his ambitious desire to become Dictator of Mexico, was determined to retain Texas at all cost, and gave such orders for its holding to Generals Cos and Urrea, commanders of the Mexican forces, that they were impelled to their utmost to regain the lost prestige of the army and recapture San Antonio.

Urrea had succeeded during the period of diplo-

matic effort in defeating a column of the more enthusiastic but misguided colonists, who tried to do too much with inadequate numbers and equipment, and was eager for further conflict.

General Cos had been paroled by Burleson when he surrendered the Alamo and San Antonio, and by honor was bound not to return to the struggle. But Santa Anna was unyielding, and compelled his brother-in-law to take the field in spite of his parole. It is not on record that Cos' protests were very pronounced, a parole not meaning much to the army of the frontier in those stirring days.

The Mexicans made elaborate preparation for their next invasion, and to make sure of success, and to as firmly establish his dictatorship in Texas as he had succeeded in doing in the provinces of the republic, Santa Anna took command of the combined armies himself, sending Urrea to Matamoras, Refugio and Goliad, Cos and General Filisola accompanying the commander to San Antonio, all the time the post, mission and city of chief importance throughout the struggles for liberty.

DISSENSION AMONG THE AMERICANS.

After the surrender of Cos to Burleson, succeeding the five days' fight in the town, then mostly located West of the river, including Main Plaza and Soledad and Acequia streets, the American forces had scattered, returning to their homes and farms, the leaders going to the Convention of Consultation, at San Felipe, and the stragglers scattering over the country,

occupying various small posts and trading sites, no central body of troops remaining in organization to sustain the limited garrison remaining in charge of the Alamo.

Of these there were but a hundred and forty-five men, under the command of Colonel Wm. Travis, one of the heroes of Gonzales and Goliad, one of the most courageous of the colonists and a wise and able leader. David Crockett and James Bowie were with him, both known to fame as Indian fighters of note and as pioneers whose courage was undoubted.

It is unfortunate that in this critical period the Texans were divided. President Smith failed to secure the sustaining support of his cabinet and leading advisers. Houston leaned toward Smith's views and thus lost control of the army. A council guided its movements, and unfortunately distributed it over the country, no garrison having an adequate fighting force. The Alamo was the best manned of them all.

Urrea had defeated and brutally massacred Col. Grant's battalion at Bahia. Indecision and lack of concentration characterized the conduct of the president and council. Houston wanted to bring the colonist forces together into one command and make an effective stand wherever the enemy might strike. But having taken up the president's cause, which was not the popular one, his wishes were overridden and segregation followed.

And such was the unfortunate state of affairs when Santa Anna took command on the Rio Grande and set out for San Antonio to recapture the Alamo and put down the insurrection forever.

THE MISSION OF THE ALAMO.

No recital of the fall of the Alamo, and the massacre of the courageous band of colonists who so gallantly defended it that their bravery had immortalized them in Texas history, would be sufficiently explanatory to give to the reader the best understanding of the struggle that failed to give a history of the Alamo itself.

This, in fact, is the motive which has prompted this brochure—to portray to the visitor the founding, building and life of the Alamo; to depict its strength as a fortress; its influence as a church; its relation to the territory as a central station for the army, the Franciscans and the frontiersmen of Texas; and to portray the memorable struggle that took place within its massive walls, and about its environs, as Texan and Mexican contended and fought and died for its possession, in that memorable battle that made the beautiful river at its feet run red with the blood of the martyrs within its walls and of the foe that attacked them from without.

That which has preceded is preliminary to that which follows. The history and tale of the Alamo cannot but arouse the patriotism of every Texan, and hold with interestedness every visitor who views its sacred precincts.

Senor Don Domingo Ramon is supposed to have located the first of the posts of San Antonio near the beautiful springs of the San Pedro in 1715, to which was given the name of Fort San Antonio de Velaro.

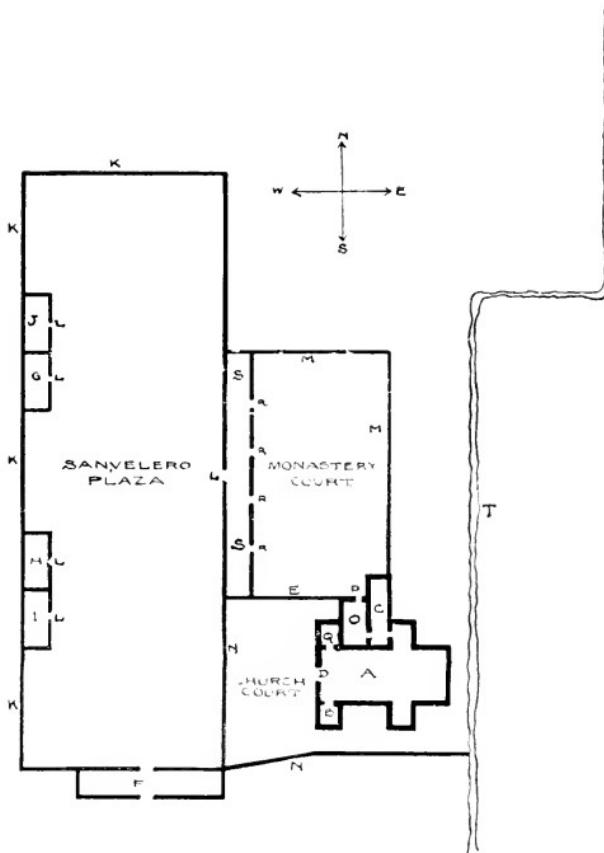
This was in the nature of a garrison together with a little church, the post remaining there three years, when the Franciscan monks began the erection of a mission in association therewith.

Three times the site of this was changed. First, it was moved to the present Military Plaza, then back to the San Pedro again, and finally, in 1722, or a hundred and eighty years ago, it was located permanently on its present site, on the Eastern side of the San Antonio river.

The city takes its name from that of the original post. The mission took its title after it became a parish from the beautiful trees along the bank of the river and *acequia*, the word being the Spanish for the tree known to America as the "cottonwood."

As will be seen by a glance, either at the building by the visitor or at the frontispiece by the reader, the Mission or Church of the Alamo was a most substantially and somewhat artistically built structure. All these old missions were built upon the Cesæræn plan, with extremely heavy walls and partitions between rooms, parapetted cornices, graveled azoteas for roofs, the main building of a mission always combining the features of a church and a fortress.

The Church of the Alamo was but the central building of the mission. A visit to the Mission de la Concepcion or the Mission San Jose at the present time will give an idea of the surrounding structures, at both those missions parts of the old embattlement walls, and some of the smaller buildings which were parts of



GROUND PLAN OF ALAMO.

- A. MISSION.
- B. BAPTISTRY
- C. SACRISTY
- D. FRONT DOOR OF MISSION
- E. A WALL 50 FEET LONG CONNECTING CHURCH WITH MONASTERY. SS.
- F. A LOW STONE GRANARY 114 FEET LONG AND 17 FEET WIDE.
- G, H, I AND J ROOMS BUILT AGAINST THE WEST WALL.
- K. MONASTERY WALL FROM 6 TO 8 FEET HIGH AND $2\frac{1}{4}$ THICK.
- L. DOORS, OF HOUSES, OPENING UPON PLAZA.
- M. WALL OF COURT CONNECTING MONASTERY AND CHURCH.
- N. WALL SEPARATING PLAZA FROM CHURCH COURT OF CONSECRATED GROUND
- O. MONKS BURYING GROUND
- P. OPENING, INTO MONASTERY COURT.
- Q. ROOM.
- R. DOORS OF MONASTERY
- T. DITCH,

them, still remaining intact. Those of the Alamo have, unfortunately, been completely destroyed or removed.

The "Plan of the Alamo," which accompanies, will give a fair idea of the extent of the enclosure and the areas of the different parts thereof. The church was the only finished or architectural part of the mission. The monastery, which stood immediately in the left of the front entrance, was a large stone structure, covering quite an extent of ground, 186 feet in length and narrow, its greatest width being but eighteen feet. It ran North in its long dimension, extending out to the border line of what is now the city's Houston Street. Within a quarter of a century it has been modernized and is owned and used by a business firm as a wholesale merchandise house.

In front of the monastery and church were various domestic buildings, among them a large granary, traces of which are to be seen in the plan, in which the defenders of the Alamo stored their corn and provisions in times of seige.

All the buildings of the mission were enclosed in heavy stone walls with supporting arches and parapets, as in the time of Cæsar. Many of the smaller buildings along these walls remained in existence until thirty or forty years ago. Quite a row of them stood where the Opera House and business houses lining the West side of the Alamo Plaza now stand as late as the beginning of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is unfortunate from the historical viewpoint that all of them were not preserved intact.

Immediately surrounding the mission were large

cultivated gardens and small fields, wherein the Indians were taught their first lessons in agriculture and methods of civilization, these supplying the inhabitants of the missions and the garrisons of the posts with vegetables and fruits, and their horses with grain. History tells us that these garden spots were a delight to the eye, so well-kept and luxuriantly green were they from irrigation by ditches constructed by the Mexicans, Canary Islanders and Indians, under the guidance of the monks and the protection of the garrisons. One of the acequias ran directly behind the church of the Alamo to supply it with water in time of war. Traces of it remain a monument to the industry of the padres of two hundred years ago.

SECULARIZATION OF THE MISSION.

Toward the close of the eighteenth century Spain recalled the monks and the mission of the Alamo, along with others which had been established by the Franciscans, which was secularized by Senor Don Pedro de Nava, at that time Spanish Governor of Texas, and its control was turned over from the monastic order to the State clergy as a parish, there having been irritations and friction between the monks and the military at various times during their ownership by the Franciscans. The Spaniards saw the greater need of military posts than of churches and schools and prepared for defense, the missions thus becoming fortresses first, churches afterward.

It was in this stronghold of Franciscan friarship construction that General Cos was quartered when

Milam and Johnson won the first battles of San Antonio, and it was also in it that Travis, Bowie and Crockett were quartered when Santa Anna set out from Mexico to retrieve the ground his armies had lost in Texas.



Col. Travis was in command of the regulars by virtue of orders from Houston and the council. The commander-in-chief had issued a memorable order, which had a ring of independence about it not to be mistaken, on the 8th of October, 1835, in which he spoke to the people as follows:

"The time has arrived when the revolutions in the interior of Mexico have resulted in the creation of a Dictator and Texas is compelled to assume an attitude defensive of her rights and the lives and property of her citizens. War is our only alternative. 'War in the defense of right,' must be our motto. The morning of glory has dawned upon us. The work of liberty has begun. Our acts are to become a part of the history of mankind. Patriot millions will sympathize with our struggles, while nations will admire our achievements. Rally around the standard of the Constitution, entrench your rights with manly resolutions, and defend them with heroic firmness. Let your valor proclaim to the world that Liberty is your birthright. We cannot be conquered by all the arts of anarchy and despotism combined. In Heaven and valorous hearts we repose our confidence."

Col. Bowie, as brave and gallant as Travis, was in command of the volunteers who remained in San

Antonio after the "Siege of Bexar," as the five days' fight led by Milam and Johnson had been styled, the little force of a hundred and forty-five being made up about equally of Bowie's and Travis' men. It was but a handful against the five thousand Mexican troops who were approaching under command of the Dictator and his staff. Could they but have known the forces of the Mexicans, retreat would have been honorable and their sacrifice need not have occurred.

THE SIEGE OF THE ALAMO.

The Mexican army camped on the Medina, where Arredondo had so signally defeated Toledo, and sent out advance guards to learn where the Americans might be found, to ascertain their number and otherwise gain information in regard to their situations. The garrison was not well outposted, and finding the coast comparatively clear the Mexicans moved forward to the Alazan, three miles West of the town.

Garrison life had become tiresome and the Americans had given themselves over to a careless indulgence and a life of festivity. Pickets had grown careless. The men were weary of waiting, and their existence was a lazy one.

Without means of communication with the frontier they were not prepared for the enemy. Reinforcements had been expected, preliminary to a march to the West, and the little troop had been alternately impatient and indifferent about their arrival, so long had

it been delayed and so often had they been disappointed. The contentions among the leaders and council had postponed the organization of an army, and the infection of unrest and indifference to strict military rule had permeated the garrison of the Alamo.

Thus it happened that the Mexican army drew so near unannounced and unknown. They chose the night for their coming, to make their march *unseen* more sure, and by dawn on the 23rd of February were discovered swarming the prairies West of the San Pedro and filing down the banks of the more distant Alazan.

The alarm was given from the mission on Main Plaza by a sentinel stationed on the tower, and created the greatest consternation in the sleeping little city. Travis and Bowie could hardly believe it, so strong had been their dependence upon their government and the council. Trusty couriers, Dr. Sutherland, surgeon to the band, and a volunteer named Smith, were dispatched to learn the truth or falsity of the alarm and were not long in discovering, from Desiderio Hill, just West of the San Pedro, that an army before which the garrison would be powerless was already drawn up in battle array. With the coming of that dawn came the fate of the American battalion. They could not retreat in honor, nor were they horsed for a flight. There was nothing left but to do the best they could, behind the sturdy walls of the fortress, into which they were quickly filed.

Today we see around the Alamo a busy city. Then there was but here and there a little adobe on that side

of the river, the town having been built on the West banks, the mission on the opposite side. Where Travis Park now is was prairie, and all along the river on the Eastern side grazed little bunches of cattle. Men had scurried here and there, gathering as many of these together as was possible in the time at command, and as Santa Anna invaded the city from the West the American forces drove their herd into the enclosure and closed the heavy gates of the Alamo behind them for the last time.

The fiat had gone forth. During all the fierce skirmishes between the opposing forces, with the single exception of the capture of San Antonio by the colonists, massacre had followed surrender. It was a war of no quarter, a struggle to the death. Travis and Bowie—and the brave little band with them—knew when they drew the gates that it was the end, unless reinforcements from the East should come very soon. Within the Alamo the supplies of the fortress were but a few bushels of corn and the beeves which had been run in that morning. For the latter there was no feed beyond enough for a day or two, and without means of communication with the seat of government the abandonment of the garrison must have been resignedly complete.

Every American but one had entered the fort. Dr. Sutherland had been dispatched upon the fleetest horse at command for reinforcements. San Felipe was a long distance away. Only a straggling settler here and there lived West of the Brazos. The frontiersmen had suffered more severely at Goliad and the

Medina than those from the colonies further to the East. The courier had a long way to go before he could reach a settled section. His mission was hopeless, and though he rode the death ride fearlessly the garrison lived not to learn the result of his effort.

MESSAGE OF DEFIANCE AND DEATH.

Hardly had the gates been closed and barricaded before messengers from Santa Anna arrived demanding surrender. Travis had a cannon on the roof and answered the demand by a shot. The Mexican had taken possession of the Mission San Fernando, and upon its tower, from which the sentinel had given the first warning of his approach, he ran up a blood-red flag. The heroes of the Alamo saw it and knew what it meant. The messenger of their death waved before them in the gentle breezes of the Southern morn.

The river lay between, and ran more water than now. An army could not be forded, and thus delay occurred. The answer which Travis had sent him told Santa Anna that he had a struggle ahead, so his engineers were put to work constructing a bridge, far enough down the river to be beyond the reach of the American guns.

To get timber for the bridge a detachment of men was sent to attack the walls of the mission from the rear, but the galling fire of the riflemen within less than an hour sent thirty of them to their death and they were withdrawn, a cordon being swung to the North and East, on what is now known as Dignowity

Hill, to prevent the possible retirement of the garrison in that direction.

The state of siege necessitated concert of action within the Alamo. Travis was formally placed in command, with Bowie as second officer in case of his death. Crockett, who had come from Tennessee after his defeat for re-election to the American Congress, upon his arrival had been tendered the command by Travis, but he declined the honor and responsibility. "I am among you to live or to die; I have come to your country to identify myself with your interests, and the only honor I desire is that of assisting to defend, as a fighter in the ranks, the liberties of my fellow citizens and the freedom of this beautiful country," was his patriotic reply.

Davy Crockett was a character of whom history has recorded many an incident. Tall, lithe, athletic, as courageous as a lion, he had been a Tennessee frontiersman of whom the state had been proud. He had led his fellow settlers many a time against the Indians and outlaws who had infested that state in early times, and had finally, in the days of peace, been sent to the American Congress. There he was a striking character, in his buckskin dress and coonskin cap, with his favorite rifle always by him. He had the courage of his convictions and followed the dictates of his conscience rather than the mandates of his party, his favorite motto, which made him famous, "Be Sure You Are Right, Then Go Ahead," being his guide in all his transactions, and he was not returned a second time. He had proclaimed in his canvass that if de-

Pioneer Soldier and Statesman



David Crockett

Born in STRONG'S SPRINGS in the
Wilderness, near LIMESTONE, TENN.
Nov. 17th 1786.

Killed at the battle of the
ALAMO, Tex.

feated he should go to Texas and take up the cause of Liberty there, and had kept his word.

Crockett had no ambitions to lead the Texans, he preferred to follow. But from the moment he set foot on Texas soil he had been an enthusiastic devotee of the cause of the Texans, and now, at the crucial moment, was a fighter among fighters, a private among privates, yet a counsellor among counsellors within the walls of the cradle of the liberty of the Lone Star Republic.

SERIOUSNESS OF THE SIEGE UNDERSTOOD.

Within the Alamo there could be no misunderstanding of the seriousness of the siege. Travis comprehended the situation and saw that it was desperate. Unless relief should come there could be but one result.

A consultation decided that assistance must be secured, and one of the bravest of the brave defenders of the Alamo, Col. James B. Bonham, a South Carolinian who had colonized to Texas, volunteered to undertake the hazardous task of getting through the enemy's lines and carrying the message of distress to Col. Fannin at Goliad. Under cover of darkness he made his way through the pickets, and once well out on the prairie rode with the swiftness of the wind in the interests of his compatriots and their cause, making Goliad on the morning of the 25th and earnestly laying the situation before the commander of the post at that point.

Fannin had but a small force and it took time to

gather together enough men to make the effort worth the while. On the 28th he started with a troop of cavalry and several cannon. But the traveling was heavy, the wagons were in bad condition, and headway was made too slowly for Bonham, who galloped back alone and under cover of night, as when he left, succeeded in returning to the Alamo with his announcement of reinforcements within a short time.

But Urrea was marching upon Goliad and the news was carried to Fannin, compelling him to return with haste to his own garrison, and thus the Alamo heard nothing from aid from that direction.

Meanwhile the courier who had first set out for San Felipe had succeeded in arousing the garrison at Gonzales and thirty-two courageous volunteers broke through the Mexican lines on the eighth day of the siege and got within the enclosure, where they were enthusiastically received by Travis, who yet hoped that enough might come from various garrisons and settlements to enable him to hold the fortress against the enemy.

But in this hope he was to be disappointed. The Mexicans were pressing hard and drawing closer and closer. The distances between the colonists' posts were great, and traveling was bad. Couriers were the only means for the transporting of dispatches, and they were often shot down and failed to reach their destination. The country was sparsely settled and with difficulty could even small bands of fighting men be gathered. It was the destiny of fate that the Alamo was not to be relieved. The hundred and seventy-

seven brave heroes who were besieged within the massive walls of the church and fortress were to be immolated upon the sacred altar of liberty, and the day of their immolation was near.

PATRIOTIC AND PATHETIC APPEAL.

The Mexicans had not yet attacked the fort, so Travis wrote a patriotic and pathetic appeal on the 24th of February and sent a second courier out of the walls in the hope that he might get with safety to the settlements and be able to arouse the scattered colonists to a concerted reinforcement and defense of the city. His appeal speaks the story of his courage better than any words a historian might pen, reading as follows:

"COMMANDANCY OF THE ALAMO, Bexar, February 24, 1836.

"Fellow-Citizens and Compatriots: I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continued bombardment for twenty-four hours, and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion; otherwise the garrison is to be put to the sword if the place is taken. I have answered the summons with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. *I shall never surrender or retreat.* Then I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and of everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy are receiving reinforcements daily, and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. Though this call may be neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible, and die like a soldier who forgets not what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death!"

W. BARRETT TRAVIS,

"Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding."

"P. S.—The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses eighty or ninety bushels, and got into the walls twenty or thirty head of beeves." T."

On the first day of March Travis made still another attempt to get in communication with the council, then in session in the town of Washington, in which he told his compatriots of the situation and announced his intention of holding out to the last whether relief should come or not.

"Blood-red banners fly from the church at Bexar (Cathedral San Fernando) and the camp entirely surrounding the Alamo are tokens that the war is one of vengeance against the 'Rebels.' I shall continue to hold the Alamo until I get relief from my countrymen, or shall perish in the attempt."

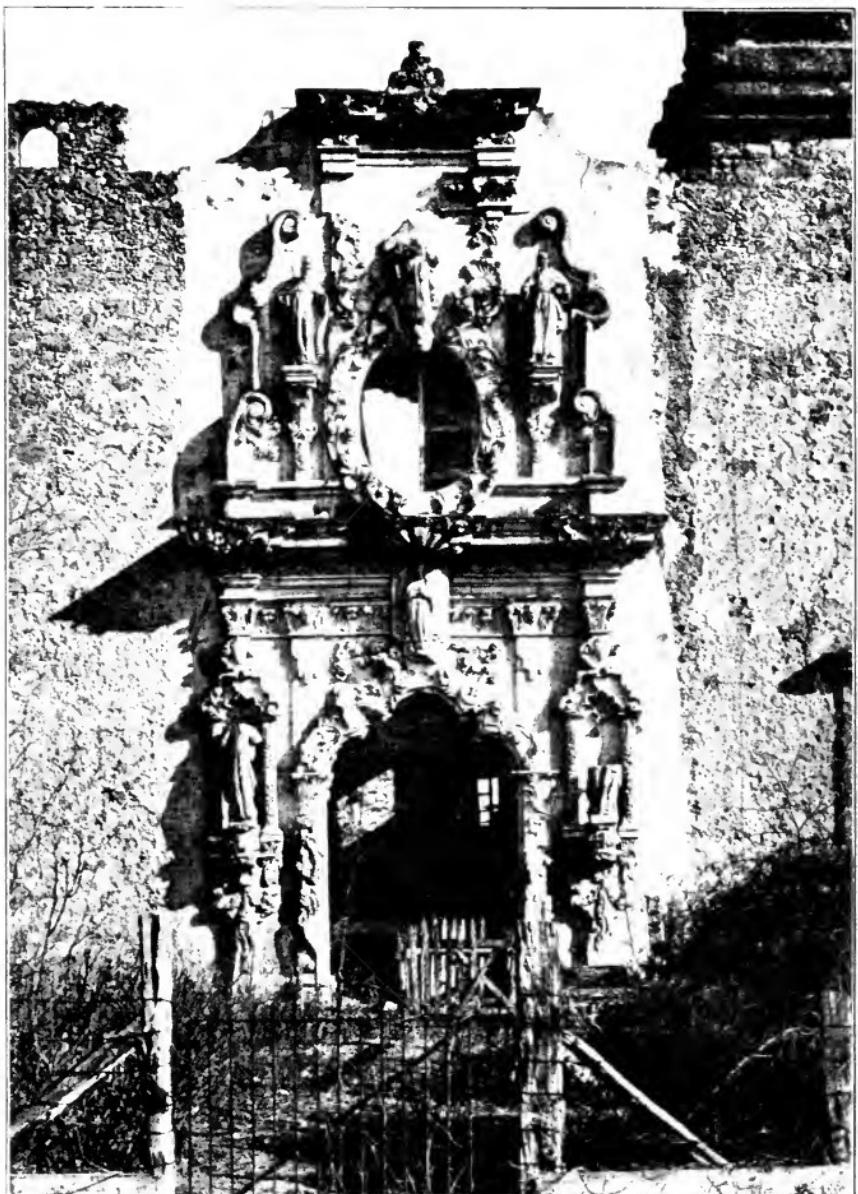
Evidently anticipating the inevitable he wrote a friend to take care of his little boy, adding-in the letter: "If the country should be saved I may make him a splendid fortune; but if lost, I perish and he is the son of one who died for his country."

This boy, then a lad of tender years, was later a member of the Texas legislature, a captain in the United States army, and at one time belonged to Colonel Sidney Johnston's regiment.

These letters were sent by couriers who never returned. The distances they had to travel were so great that the Alamo had fallen probably even before they got to their destination.

THE DAWN OF BATTLE MORN.

It was on the sixth of March, 1836, on a beautiful Sabbath morning at the close of the first week of the month, in the loveliest springtime in Texas, that the Alamo fell.



FACADE OF MISSION DE SAN JOSE, 1718.

In order to get an intelligent and appreciative understanding of the situation the exercise of a little retrospection is required.

When the battle of the Alamo occurred there were but a few thousand people in all that vast domain embraced within the geographical limits of Texas.

Louisiana was still but a province, St. Louis but a trading post. There was no Chicago. The iron horse had not yet disturbed the slumbers and reveries of the residents of the numerous peaceful valleys of the United States. The telegraph was unknown. There was no Kansas, no Nebraska, no Dakota, no state of California.

Texas was as far removed from American civilization in that day as South Africa is from England at the present time. The nearest settlement worthy the name was two hundred miles from San Antonio. The country was one vast area of prairie and chaparral, the home of the Indian and buffalo, the cayote and cougar. The Alamo was the strongest fortress in the territory, San Antonio the central post of military operations. It being the strongest of them all any help that might come would have to come from weaker stations.

The city was so isolated that it was a kingdom in itself. The traveler would ride day after day without seeing a habitation of any kind, a ranch, a jackal ("hacal") or even a dugout, coming upon San Antonio and its mission settlements out of the depths of the mesquite, a city of the valley and plains, hidden in the

mighty pecan and cottonwoods of the river, isolated and alone.

In the stone church of the Franciscans were grouped a hundred and seventy-seven courageous American pioneers.

Outside were five thousand Mexican soldiers under a tyrannical leader, seeking to break down the protecting barriers of stone and mortar and massacre them all.

From the tablet of memory the present geography and substantial cities and towns and railroads and enterprises of the United States and the great Southwest must be effaced.

Only the Alamo, the little town west of the river, the handful of American defenders and the gaudily-dressed and well-equipped Mexican army without the walls, form the picture upon which the sun rose on that beautiful Sabbath in the Texas springtime, when nature was arrayed in her best garb and the soft air was laden with the delicious perfume of a thousand flowers, the birds warbling their sweet melodies in the leafy bowers of the majestic trees, and the oncoming light of the rising orb of day dispelling the mists of the valley.

It was the hour when the monks would have been at prayer.

The siege had dragged its weary length along partly because Santa Anna had waited for reinforcements. He had learned by the experience of his generals in the field that the Texans were desperate fighters, and

that nothing but overwhelming numbers could overcome them. He already had nearly five thousand men, but he waited for the arrival of an additional force of two thousand more, under command of General Tolza, before beginning his final attack upon the garrison and church. Tolza arrived on the 3d of March, and now an army of seven thousand Mexicans surrounded the Alamo.

On the 5th the commander-in-chief communicated his plans to his generals. Unusual quantities of ammunition were distributed to the troops, and scaling ladders and crowbars were parceled out as a part of the equipment.

During the night of the 5th the troops were assigned their positions and were marched to their respective stands. The Matamoras Battalion was halted on a favorable position near the river. Behind the Alamo General Cos occupied a commanding station with two thousand well-trained troops, among them those he had led out of the mission when the Americans came into its possession, General Tolza's command holding the ground to the south. The attacking troops were under Amat, but Santa Anna was the power behind them all.

OFFICIAL ORDERS FOR ATTACK.

The following official orders governing the attack have been preserved in history:

"The reserves will be composed of the battalion of Sappers and Miners, and the five companies of the Grenadiers of the Matamoras, Jimenes and Aldamas battalions of regulars, and of the Toluca and San Luis battalions of volunteers.

"The reserve will be commanded by the General-in-Chief in

person, at the time of making the attack, but these forces will be organized by Col. Don Agustin Amat, under whose control they will remain from this evening, and who will conduct them to the point which will be designated to him at the proper time.

"The first column will be provided with ten scaling ladders, two crowbars and two axes; the second will be provided with the same quantity; the third with six, and the fourth with two. The men carrying the ladders will sling their guns over their shoulders, so as to leave them entirely free to place their ladders wherever they may be directed.

"Grenadier and cavalry companies will be supplied with six packages of cartridges to the man, and to the infantry companies four with two extra flints. The latter will be encumbered with neither overcoats, blankets nor anything which will impede the rapidity of their movements. During the day all caps will be provided with chin straps. Corps commanders will pay particular attention to this provision, and are also required to see that the men are provided with shoes, or other covering for their feet.

"The men composing the attacking column will retire to rest at sundown, preparatory to moving at midnight.

"The men not well drilled will remain at their quarters.

"Arms, particularly bayonets, will be put in the best condition.

"When the moon rises the riflemen of the San Luis battallion of volunteers will retire to their quarters, abandoning the points they cover along the line, so as to give them time to put their equipage in readiness.

"The cavalry, under the command of Gen. Don Joaquin Ramirezy y Sesma, will occupy the Alameda, and saddle up at 3 o'clock in the morning. It will be their duty to watch the camp, and prevent the escape of anyone who may attempt to do so.

"The honor of the nation, and of the army, being involved in this contest against the daring foreigners in our front, His Excellency, the General-in-Chief, expects that each man will perform his duty, and contribute his share in securing a day of glory to his country, and of honor to the Federal Government, which knows how to honor the brave men of the army of operations who shall distinguish themselves by performing feats of valor.

"JUAN VALENTINE AMADOR."

"I certify the foregoing to be a true copy.

"RAMON MARTINES CORO, Secretary."

"A correct translation.

DAVID G. WHITING,

"Translator General Land Office."

N. B.—This order, Becerra said, was issued March 5, 1836, and copied next day.

This was the order given by the President of Mexico, and commander of her armies, to six thousand Mexicans, the elite of the Mexican army, who had been besieging less than two hundred Texans for thirteen days. It speaks for itself.

On March 7th Gen. Santa Anna issued a "Proclamation," in which he speaks of the immolation of the Texans as a matter of justice, and argues that the "Army of Operations" has been marched into Texas for the performance of such deeds.

Within the Alamo the gallant little band of Americans were waiting patiently for the attack they knew would come.

Travis had called them all together, from church and fortress, from barracks and prison, from hospital and kitchen, and had given them his farewell address. This will be found in Historical Sketch No. 1. Then in silence and with determination they repaired to their various stations, prepared to fight to the end, to deal blow for blow, take life for life, and surrender only in the arms of death, never in the hands of the enemy. The roof of the church held their cannon. Behind its embattlement they would fight to the last. If driven from the azotea they would seek the refuge of the heavy-walled rooms, and there in hand-to-hand struggle would hold on to the death.

There were no dissenters. But one man, whose name was Rose, preferred to try to escape, and he lowered himself beyond the rear wall, battered down in previous conflicts. History gives no record of his fate. It could not have been better than that of the patriots who preferred to stay, the surrounding limits being

overrun with Mexican soldiers on the lookout for escaping Texans.

THE BATTLE BEGINS.

With the approach of dawn the Mexicans began their closing in. On every side the brilliant equipment of a gaudy troop glittered in the darting streaks of the rising sun. From out the trees they came. From out the chapparal their forms rose like a mighty swell. Behind the Alamo General Cos, whom the Americans had paroled on honor, led his regiments of Montezumas directly under the walls on the East. Santa Anna came from across the river, behind the main body of the army, urging them on with all the wickedness of a demon and the skill of a trained chieftain.

As the sun rose over the hill to the East the sharp rattle of musketry was reverberating through the bush on every side, while the heavy boom of the Mexican cannon from across the river and to the South of the fortress echoed and re-echoed down the valley and to the river's springs. A perfect rain of shot and shell, a hail of minnie balls and musketry lead, kept sweeping the parapets of the Alamo. The Mexicans pressed on, coming closer and closer, drawing their lines tighter and tighter on every side of the fortress, the little band of Americans biding their time.

Travis and Crockett and Bonham were calm. Bowie was below on his dying couch, violently ill with pneumonia, but from his bed he encouraged the men and calmed the women. Occasionally the sharp crack of a Texas rifle told the story of the death of a Mexican

officer, the patriots reserving their fire for the commanders and until the scaling of the walls, which they knew was to come, should have been begun.

Finally this moment arrived. The Mexicans pressed their men forward. The outer walls were attacked with rams and cannon and were easily broken down. The enclosure outside the church swarmed with the dark-skinned Latins, bent on the destruction of the hated race within, and the time had come for action by the patriots which should count for all they might be able to give.

"Boom," "boom," sung their cannon from parapet and corner into the swarm below. "Crack," "crack," "ping," "ping," sang their rifles, and before their gallant fire of ball and slug a thousand Mexicans went to earth.

The Texans fought like fiends. Their carnage was awful. Every man was an expert with his gun and employed it to the best advantage.

As the ladders were thrown against the outer walls of the church and barracks and Mexican heads would show themselves on the upper rounds, above the wall, "crack" would go a rifle or a pistol, and down would fall a swarthy form.

But their numbers made their losses little felt, and under the prodding of their commander's swords and the wild excitement of the conflict others would mount the ladders and get to the top, only to fall upon the stricken form of a comrade who had already gone the way.

The cannon were no longer of service on either side.

The conflict had resolved itself into a personal encounter between man and man.

The Texans shot as long as they had ammunition, and then clubbed the Mexicans down the walls, until exhausted by their struggles and laborious physical efforts they began to fall and the Mexicans saw their victory.

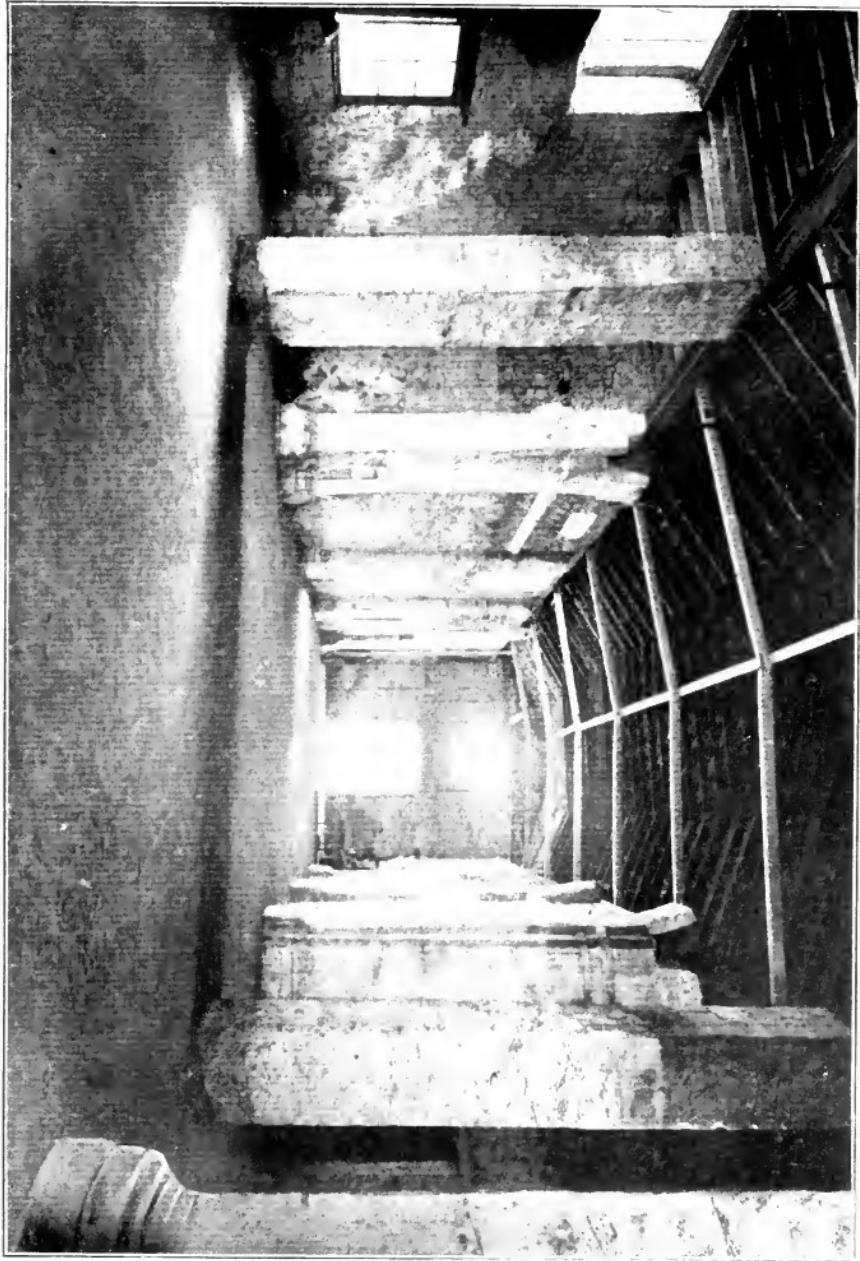
Over the walls they climbed and fell. With clubbed rifles, pistol butts and knives the Americans kept up the struggle. The plaza of the monastery was full of the dark-skinned fighters by this time, the American force being diminished moment by moment.

It was an awful carnage, a slaughter whose equal has not been recorded since the day of Thermopylæ.

Under a fierce ramming and barring the Northeast corner of the monastery gave way, and through the break Castrillion forced his men. The plaza was filled in a minute, the court was packed, and the North doors of the church, into which the Americans had backed for their final stand, was attacked by a tremendous power of men and rams. The openings were blocked by sacks of sand, behind which dodged the remaining patriots, picking off a man here and there with leaden balls, nails and scraps of iron, with which they were compelled to load their guns.

The doors were blown in with powder blasts and then, after the fearful struggle, which had now lasted more than two and a half hours, Mexican and Texan faced each other in the burying ground of the Alamo, the main body making their final stand in the auditorium of the chapel.

INTERIOR OF ALAMO, WITH MODERN ROOF, WHERE FINAL STAND WAS MADE



Again the Mexicans brought their cannon into play, so dreadful had been the havoc the Americans wrought among them. The front doors were attacked with grape and canister, yielding at last to a terrific bombardment, which cost the Americans many a life. Into the chapel the Mexicans madly rushed, over the bodies of patriots killed by the grape and canister fire they fell. The Americans were now attacked in their final chamber of death from behind and in front, and there they fought as never men fought before, until every heart had been stilled in death and every voice had been forever hushed.

With pistol-butt and rifle, knife and bayonet, with stones and pieces of iron, they fought their death-fight, overwhelmed and crushed by force of numbers, no one asking for quarter, none offering it to the other.

The confusion was awful, the carnage frightful. The crack of firearms, the shouts of defiance and groans of pain, the death agonies of the wounded, the screaming of the women, the loud reverberation of the cannon without, fired in upon the gallant handful which were left, what an awful contrast within the sacred walls of the old Franciscan chapel with the service to God which was solemnized on the Sabbath of the monks and their converts!

Down into the very jaws of death climbed the Mexicans who scaled those walls and swarmed the yards, and into the jaws of death madly rushed the bronze soldier who dared his way to the chapel. It cost a life to enter a room, even the bedridden Bowie fighting

from his couch and yielding only when he fell back upon his pillow with his life shot out.

History tells that Travis was killed early in action and that Crockett, Evans and Bonham directed the fighting as long as further directing was to be done. Under a dying injunction from the leader Captain Evans tried to blow up the magazine at the final moment, that he and his compatriots might perish by their own act and not by the hand of the invader, but as he was touching the light to the fuse he fell, pierced to the heart by a Mexican bullet, and the carnage went on.

Crockett was among the last to die. His "Betsy" made many a Mexican rue the day he had joined the army, and when there was no more time to load he clubbed many a foe to death with his gun before he finally succumbed, his body bullet-ridden for minutes before he gave up the struggle.



It was well along toward the middle of the forenoon before the conflict ended. The Americans had fought against insurmountable odds, and had held out against an enemy of tremendous strength, vicious cunning and revengeful head and heart. Every inch of ground had been contested. For every Texan's life the Mexicans had paid thirteen fold.

The church was a morgue and charnel house. Mexicans and Americans were lying in clusters and piles in every corner and angle. The floors of the smaller rooms were actually covered by the lifeless forms of the combatants, while cords of bodies of brown and

white were clumped before the main doorway, over which the hordes who had broken through in the final struggle had had to climb.

In his report to the commander-in-chief a Mexican officer wrote as follows:

"An order was given me to gather our dead and wounded. It was a fearful sight. Lifeless soldiers covered the ground surrounding the Alamo, and were heaped in piles inside the fortress. Blood and brains covered the ground and spattered the walls. Ghastly faces met our eyes as we moved them with despondent hearts. Our loss in front of the Alamo was represented by two thousand killed and three hundred wounded. The killed received their wounds in the head, neck and shoulders, rarely below that. The firing of the besieged was terribly accurate, and when a Texan rifle was leveled on a Mexican he was considered as good as dead. All this indicated bravery and cool self-possession of the men engaged in a hopeless conflict with an enemy numbering more than thirty to one. They inflicted on us a loss ten times greater than they sustained."

The victory of the Alamo was dearly bought. A hundred and seventy-six Americans had held them at bay for twelve days of siege, and, finally, though every man among them was massacred, this gallant little band had sold their lives at the expense to their foe of two thousand killed and three hundred wounded. For every American life there had been expended more than thirteen Mexican soldiers, the flower of the Dictator's splendid army.

The siege and battle of the Alamo caused intense excitement throughout the country and aroused the interest of the United States in the cause of Texas. Officially the great republic did not interfere. But individually thousands of her citizens hurried to the frontier and took up arms with the Texans, excited to action by the courage and fortitude of the heroes of the Alamo, whose immolation made Texas free.

MONUMENT ERECTED AND DESTROYED.

The Alamo is the monument of the State to the heroes who met death within. It is held as a State Museum, sustained under contract with the State by the city of San Antonio.

To an Englishman named Nagle belongs the honor of having originated the first statue to those who defended the fortress, which unfortunately was destroyed by fire when the capitol at Austin burned, in 1880, and which has not been reproduced.

It stood at the entrance to the capitol; on its four sides, above the inscriptions, being carved the names of Travis, Bowie, Crockett and Bonham.

On the North front of the statue was the following inscription :

“To the God of the Fearless and Free Is Dedicated This Altar of the Alamo.”

On the West front it read :

“Blood of Heroes Hath Stained Me. Let the Alamo Speak, That Their Immolation Be Not Forgotten.”

On the South front it read :

"Be They Enrolled With Leonidas in the Host of the Mighty Dead."

On the East front there was the following inscription:

"Thermopylæ Had Her Messenger of Defeat, But the Alamo Had None."

Perhaps at some future time, may be even within the life of the present generation, Texas will again build a monument and place it at the front of her splendid capitol building, which shall be commemorative of the deeds done in the body by the gallant heroes who died so nobly in the cause of liberty and independence.



Following the siege and battle of the Alamo the bodies of the Americans who had been so ruthlessly slain therein were taken to where the German Catholic church now stands, on East Commerce street, and there were burned. Under orders from Santa Ann Colonel Mora sent out his troops to bring in wood, and alternate layers of cord wood and bodies were piled into a great funeral pyre, from which the smoke rose on high as incense, lost in the great canopy as it wended its way heavenward. Later the bones of the martyrs were gathered and buried by Colonel Juan N. Seguin.

And thus ended the most memorable struggle recorded in all the history of America. Many deeds of valor have immortalized her citizens. Many courageous conflicts mark the pathway of American civilization. The Revolutionary War and the unfortunate

struggle between the States witnessed many a deed of heroism, many a sacrifice that should not have been. But to the Alamo remains the glory of the most undaunted bravery, the credit of the most courageous heroism, and the shame of the blackest massacre that American history records. Its significance was great, its achievement worthy the best effort of the ablest inscriber of history's best deeds. The visitor cannot but be profoundly impressed as he stands within the sacred walls of this ancient church and fortress, and to him the lives and work of the heroes who fell in its defense cannot but be a glorious inspiration.

FROM THE ALAMO TO SAN JACINTO.

From the Alamo to San Jacinto is but a step. Intoxicated by his success in destroying the garrison at the former Santa Anna lost no time in making preparations for an invasion further East. Mrs. Dickinson and her child were put upon a horse and sent to Houston's headquarters as a messenger of victory and defiance. The Alamo had fallen, the American must go.

But the Texans were made of sterner stuff. The fall of the Alamo both shocked and enraged them. They had not dreamed that so large an army would be brought from the City of Mexico to overcome the garrison, and its destruction came as a complete surprise. Nor had it been expected that Santa Anna himself would take the field.

Houston lost no time in calling his councillors together and gathering an army of defense. Travis' appeal did not reach him until the day the Alamo fell. Its courage had a thrilling effect upon the patriots, and by the 11th Houston had gathered several hundred troops together and had got as far west as Gonzales. There it was thought to make a stand, but finding a garrison of less than three hundred men a retreat was ordered until reinforcements could be had.

Fannin was ordered to gather in his men and join the main force, after burying his cannon and destroying the fort. But it took time to get couriers out to the various bodies of troops scouting the frontier, and Urrea came upon him when but a few miles from Goliad and he and his force were destroyed, cruelly massacred a few days after their honorable surrender, under promise of parole and return to Louisiana.

The destruction of Fannin further fired the patriot heart, and Houston's force increased day by day. Santa Anna had meanwhile styled himself the "Napoleon of the West" and had heralded his determination to destroy every settlement and town and slaughter every American his forces might capture. Gonzales was burned shortly after the patriots had retreated from it, and on to the East the victorious Mexicans marched.

But the end was near. The Colonist army had swelled to several thousand men. Their intrepid leader inspired them with courage, and the battle-cry of "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" cemented them as a single man, bent on freedom and revenge.

On the 21st of April the contending armies met at San Jacinto. When Houston's forces had crossed the river he burned the bridges behind them. Escape there was none. It was victory or death, and victory meant liberty.

It is beyond the scope of this monograph to detail the combat of San Jacinto. It was a hard-fought battle, a combat to the death, a struggle for independence. The Americans won. Their valor was a marvel to the Mexican chieftain. Such bravery and dashing courage he had never met on the field of battle. The heroes of the Alamo fought behind heavy walls, the heroes of San Jacinto in the open field. The Mexican forces were overwhelmed and dismayed.

General Cos was captured and was shot for having violated his San Antonio parole. Santa Anna escaped until the next day, when he was captured and taken before Houston. That he was not made to pay the penalty of death for his deeds was due to Houston's magnanimity and because it was believed that with him as a prisoner better terms for independence might be secured.

The Mexican commander was held captive until a Treaty of Peace and Independence was drawn, on the 14th of May, when Texas became a free and independent republic, a sovereign nation, later to become a member of the galaxy that forms the American Union.

An interesting event in connection with the signing of the treaty was that not having a seal Governor Burnett cut from his coat a button bearing the lone star and an oak leaf and laurel wreath and impressed

it thereupon, thus giving to Texas her seal, her flag and her sobriquet, the Lone Star State.

The flag that had waved over the Alamo during the American occupation was the tri-colored Mexican banner, with the date of the Texas Constitution emblazoned thereon. With the massacre the Mexicans flew their own to the breeze, the tri-color with snake and eagle as an emblem.

The president of the Republicans at that time, Deaf Smith, whose sobriquet came from defective hearing, marched to the relief of the Alamo upon receipt of Travis' appeal, but as he got within sight of the city could see the Mexican colors and knew that the garrison had fallen. Compelled to retrace his steps he overtook Mrs. Dickinson and her child and guide and acted as their escort to San Felipe.

Later she and her daughter resided in San Antonio, living in this city to the time of her death.

PART II.

HISTORICAL SKETCH NO. I.

The long room into which the visitor first enters when inspecting the Alamo was originally the nave of the church when the buildings were used as a mission. It is also where the bloodiest of the battle occurred, after the Americans withdrew from the roof and were driven within from the yard and outlying buildings.

During the siege it had been converted into a hospital for the sick and wounded of the garrison. It was into this room that the intrepid Travis called his gallant band on the 4th of March, but two days before the massacre, and explained the desperateness of the situation to them.

“My Comrades: Stern necessity compels me to improve these few moments, while the enemy have ceased bombarding and withdrawn to an unusual distance. We are overwhelmed and our fate is sealed; within a few days, perhaps within a few hours, we must be in eternity.

“I have continually received the promise of help and have long deceived you by extending you this hope,

from the fullness of my heart, instilling you with courage and bravery, as it has been extended me by the council at home.

"But they have evidently not been informed of our perilous condition or ere this would have come to our rescue. My last call on Colonel Fannin remains unanswered and my messengers have not returned. The probabilities are his command has fallen into the hands of the enemy or that our couriers have been cut off and have not reached him."

So little of bitterness did he feel in that sad hour that his soul in its sublimity had no reproach or censure.

Continuing, he said to them:

"It is no longer a question of how we may save our lives, but a question as to how best to prepare for death and serve our country. If we surrender we will be shot without taking the life of a single enemy. If we try to make our escape through the Mexican lines we will be butchered before we can dispatch our adversaries. To either of these I am opposed, and ask you to withstand every advance of the enemy. And when they shall scale our walls at last and storm the fort let us slay them as they come, as they leap within slay them, as they raise their weapons to slay our companions slay we all of them until our arms are powerless to lift our swords in defense of ourselves, our comrades and our country.

"Yet to every man I give permission to surrender or escape. My desire and decision is to remain in the fort and fight as long as breath remains in my body. But do as you think best, each of you, and those who

consent to remain with me to the end will give me joy unspeakable."

His speech was received in silence. It was no occasion for cheers and enthusiasm. It was a solemn moment, and the silence was oppressive. Stepping from where he had stood Travis drew a line with his sword on the dirt floor of the chapel, from right to left of the file, and taking his position on this line he left it to the little band to indicate their position.

"Those who will remain and fight till we die step across this line to my right."

Colonel Bowie called to his attendants to carry his cot across the line and place it by his leader's side. It was the signal for action. Every man but one followed him. Moses Rose declined. With his face covered by his hands he stood a moment, wrapt in thought, hesitating as to what he should do.

Bowie spoke up and said to him: "Rose, you do not seem to be willing to die with the rest."

"No," he replied thoughtfully and earnestly, "I am not prepared to die and shall not if I can avoid it. I speak the language of the enemy fluently, and perhaps if I can clear the lines I may escape. I do not like to leave, but life is dear to me and I shall go."

He gathered his things together, bid his farewell to the men he knew best, and dropping over the wall was gone. He escaped the lines and was cared for a few days at a settler's home, after which nothing of him is known.

William Barrett Travis was a remarkable character of bravery and self-possession, a courteous knight, a

thorough soldier. He was born in South Carolina, in Edgefield district, on the 31st of July, 1809, moved to Alabama in 1818, to Conecuh County, in this and in Monroe County studied law, and was admitted to the bar before coming to Texas. He was a man of refined appearance and conduct, of stern yet gentle features. He was but twenty-seven years old at the time of his death.



For a long time following the siege the Alamo was more or less in a state of ruin. The Mexican armies moved on eastward, operating in that part of Texas until defeated at San Jacinto, and gave it no attention. The colonists repaired the worst breaks during the life of the Republic, but in 1848 the United States government put the building in what may be said to be its present state of repair. They floored it, however, with board floors, upper and lower, using the building for commissary purposes, these floors being removed when the building was set aside by the legislature as a State Historical Museum, in 1883, when the city took possession of it and tried to put it back to its original condition, as far as could be done with safety, except a few openings left for convenience, as it is to be seen to-day.

The original walls were solid, without windows except those ornamenting the West front. The heavy columns on the North and South walls of the nave supported arches which sustained the roof, made of stone and mortar. These arches stood out in a series, vaulting into a dome over the arms or transepts, as the nave

forms the shape of a cross. The dome was crowned by a small cupola, supplied with windows, through which the light from above fell on the altar in perfect ray. With the aid of the light from the front window and portal this was sufficient for the needs of the chapel. Above the entrance was an organ loft of solid masonry, as is still preserved in Mission Concepcion. The roof spanning the space over which the dome rose is now braced by two stone pillars, added during the occupancy of the United States.

The outer walls of the mission having been considered a safe protection the monks did not supply the inner openings with doors, all of them opening directly into the nave.



The main doorway was of mountain cedar and mesquite panels, beautifully carved and adorned, traces of the ornamentation yet to be seen in the doors of San Jose.

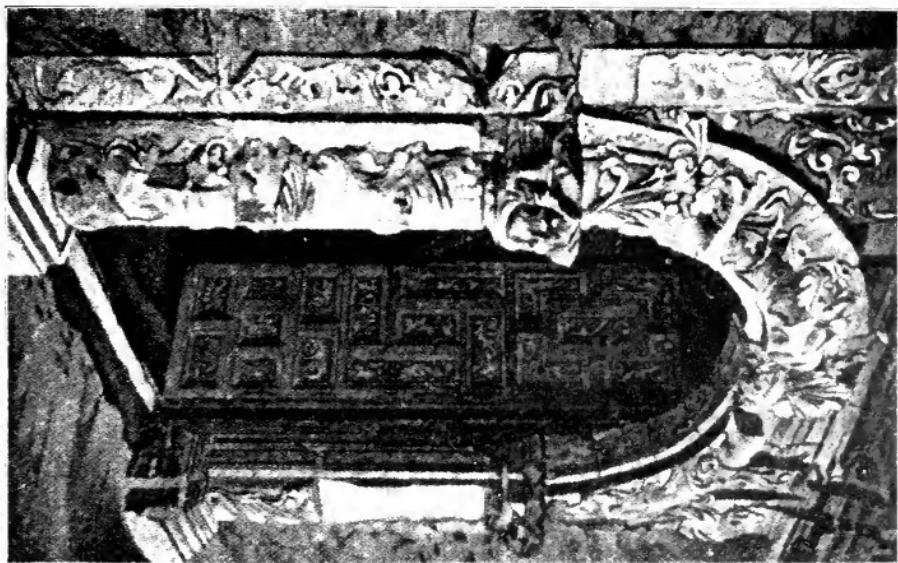
Above the portal can be seen the monogram, "M. A. R." "Maria Angelorum Regina"—Mary Queen of Angels.

Of later cut are the initials "N. O. D."—Nationum Omnium Domina—Mistress of All Nations—this pertaining to the vast influence and possessions of Spain at that time—1744, the date of the mission's completion.

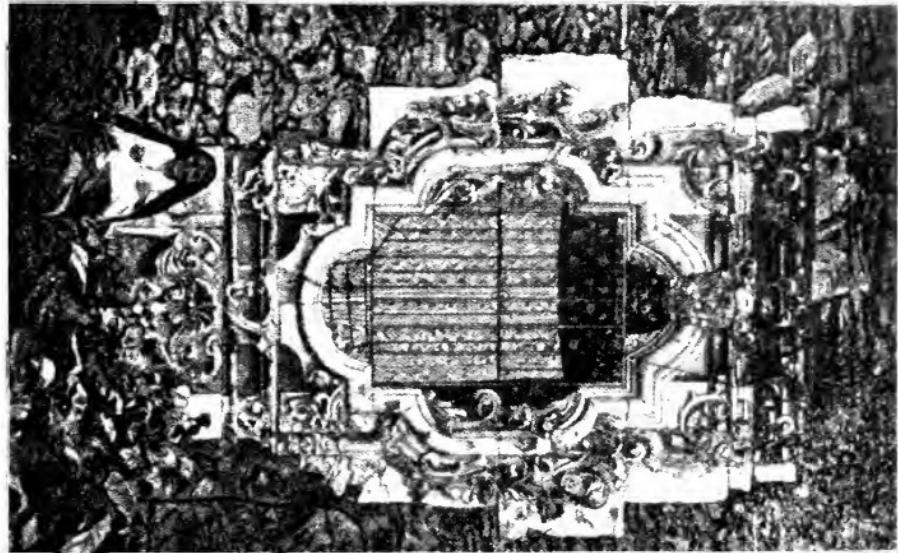


The mission proper was erected upon consecrated ground, and surrounded by a court of its own, this enclosed in an inner wall, which the monks considered

REAR DOOR OF MISSION SAN JOSE.



WINDOW OF CHAPEL, MISSION SAN JOSE.



adequate protection against attack. The inner wall separated the Alamo from the Plaza San Velaro, the latter being a small square or plaza before the monastery, into which, along the outer west wall, domestic dwellings opened for the Indians.

The inner wall gave the Alamo a double protection on the West and South, the ditch forming the division line on the East. Not until the Texans had retreated into the church did the Mexicans force an entrance into this inner court and plant their guns before the front door of the church, a continuous rain of fire from the patriot's rifles holding them back until the Texans were so reduced that they could keep up the continuous musketry no longer.

The inner wall of the mission is shown in the plan of the Alamo to be found in this brochure. It has been told by historians that the enemy broke into the Alamo by the window on the South, which, however, was not there at the time of the siege. Nor was the Alamo roofless, as has been heralded by various writers on the history of Texas. It was from the roof, or azotea, that much of the fiercest fighting occurred, and not until the outer wall of the monastery had been scaled on the North, and until the cannons of the Mexican army had battered down the front door of the mission did Santa Anna's forces crowd in hordes into the Alamo as we see it to-day, slaughtering the small American force which remained until every man had fallen.

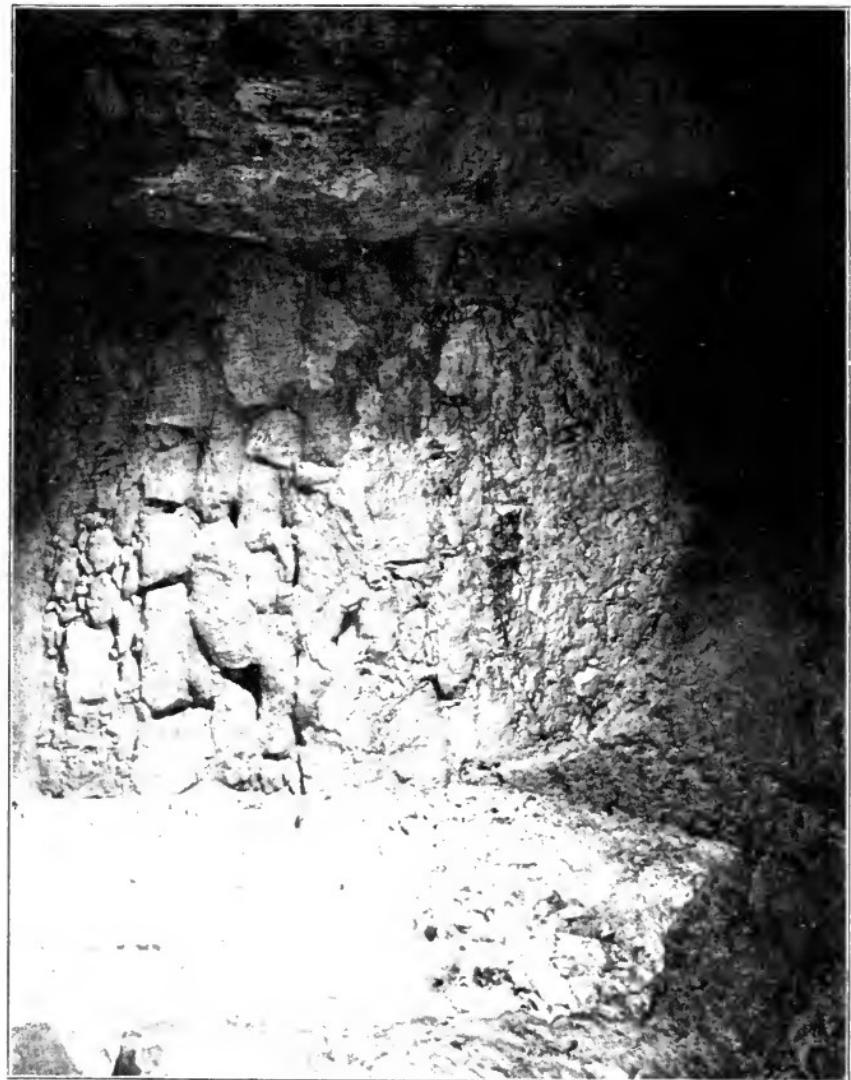
The Sacristy which had been converted into a magazine, was a blind room inside the Alamo, and had Col-

onel Evans succeeded in lighting it with the torch not only would the little band which had taken their final refuge inside its sacred walls have perished, but the building itself, so sacred to every Texan who gives heed to the valorous deeds of its martyrs, would have been destroyed. The intrepid Evans fell, pierced by a Mexican bullet, as the vanguard broke through the door, fighting their way over the bodies of their comrades and those of the Texans who had fallen with them in the hand-to-hand encounter which followed the bombardment of the Mexicans' guns. A minute more and the destruction would have been complete.

The Alamo is seventy-five feet long, sixty-two feet wide, its walls are at present twenty-two feet high and four feet thick. They formerly extended three or four feet above the roof, forming a parapet of stone from behind which the Americans fought so successfully. The azotea, or roof, had afforded the monks a breathing place where they were safe from intrusion, as also from the arrow of the savage and the stray shot of the marauder.

Could the secrets of this chapel be told, the secrets of the Franciscans in their solitude, of the Indians in their superstitions and fears, of the Mexicans in their hatreds of the Americans and the Americans in their hatreds of the Mexicans, could the heavy walls speak and tell the tales of anguish, sorrow, suffering and death that have been a part of their history, what a volume they might produce! The deeds of valor, the ministering kindnesses, the religious consolation, the worship of God, that have been a part of the lives of those

ROOM TO LEFT OF ENTRANCE, WHERE COLONEL HOWE LAY SICK.
Showing part of stone roof. Size of room, 11x12 feet.



walls, of that roof and floor, of that altar and those dark rooms, make up a record not often assigned to a single church. The Alamo stands for a great deal more than the thoughtless citizen and the careless visitor give heed. To-day its portals are opened wide to every one who cares to enter within the sacred precincts of America's Thermopylæ.

HISTORICAL SKETCH NO. 2.

The small room to the left, as the visitor enters the Alamo, is where Bowie lay sick, convalescing from pneumonia, under the care of Madame Candelaria during the siege. He was too ill to take an active part in the conflict but fought to the last when the enemy forced itself into the chapel, after he had been moved across the way to an opposite room.

Bowie's troop were volunteers and preferred not to serve under the command of Travis, who had charge of the regulars. The latter wanted harmony and graciously submitted to an election by the men to see who should be commander-in-chief, he being the youngest of the officers among them. Bowie was still the favorite of his own company, but they accepted Travis as the general choice and served him faithfully and well.

It was under Houston's orders that Bowie had joined the troop in the Alamo. He had been assigned to Goliad and adjacent points to confer with other officers of the volunteers, and after the performance of that duty had repaired to San Antonio. Caught

helpless on his sick bed Bowie showed the stuff of which he was made by firing from his couch with a pistol, dispatching several of the Mexicans as they bore down upon him, and finally, in the very struggles of death, resting on his elbow on his cot, he fought as one possessed of superhuman strength with the knife that bears his name until pinioned by Mexican bayonets, withdrawn only after the victory had been complete and every American was dead.

James Bowie was an unusually intrepid and daring man, a member of a family of fighters as famous as the famous McCooks. His ancestry were sturdy Presbyterians, the father's side from Scotland, the mother's from Wales. His grandfather came to America in 1705, and with his son was a signer of the "Declaration of the Freemen of Maryland." In all the American wars the Bowies have played their part, that of bravery and patriotism. In the short war with France in 1800, in the War of 1812, in the war with Mexico, in the Nicaraguan expedition, in the Texas conflict, in the Civil War and in the late war with Spain Bowies have wielded the sword and carried the musket, never declining to hear and obey their country's call, always at the front and in the thickest of the fight.

James was no exception. He loved war and courted danger. According to a biography written by his brother he was born in Logan County, Kentucky, in the spring of 1796. His father was Rezin Bowie, his mother the daughter of a Welsh immigrant named Jones. The elder Bowie had been wounded and captured by the British in the storming of Savannah and



had been nursed by Miss Jones in the military hospital. The acquaintance and friendship there begun ended in the plighting of their troth and the consummation of a happy married life, blessed by eight children, of whom James was the seventh.

The Bowies moved to Louisiana when the lad was but four years old, taking up their residence on Bushley Bayou, Catahoula Parish. Nine years later they moved to Opelousas, where the balance of James' boyhood life was spent. The country was new, the life that of frontiersmen. As a boy Col. Bowie was fond of hunting and roaming the forests, of lassoing alligators, trapping bears and breaking untamed horses. The more strenuous the sport the greater to his liking. At the age of eighteen he started in business for himself, establishing a clearing and lumber camp on Bayou Boeuf, where he engaged for several years in the profitable business of floating and marketing logs, occasionally visiting New Orleans in the interests of his business.

Here he met Lafitte, the Galveston pirate, and, lured by the prospects of larger gains, joined with him in privateering for a time, the laxity of the laws and their enforcement encouraging their disobedience and defiance. Together with his brothers, Rezin and John, he also at one time engaged in illegal speculation in negroes and in a system of irregular practices against the government, these experiences being the dark spots that becloud an otherwise commendable and spotless career.

With monies gained in the lumber business and in

his temporary experience as a privateer Bowie invested in lands, traded successfully, and soon amassed considerable wealth. He was provident and prospered. Later he engaged with activity in local politics and affairs, never running for office himself but becoming a factor of no inconsiderable importance in the campaigns of his country. Possessed of great personal magnetism, a hale fellow in every walk of life, an orator of no mean ability, and a man of the people, he won thousands of friends and was an accepted factor in the molding of the government of the frontier. He was an open-hearted, sincere and loyal friend, a deadly and daring enemy. But he also possessed the power to forgive and forget, and while it was said of him that he could hate "with all the rancor of an Indian" he could also forget and forgive with the charity of a woman.

James had always felt an interest in the affairs of Texas from the time of his association with Jean Lafitte, and before the war cloud appeared upon the horizon he decided to emigrate westward. Coahuilla and Texas were at that time one commonwealth, with Saltillo their capital. Bowie wanted to establish a cotton mill and had to go to Saltillo for permission and a grant. There he met and fell in love with the daughter of the vice-governor, marrying Ursallita Veramendi and locating at the capital, establishing his mills in the immediate vicinity. Two children had been born to them when cholera devastated Mexico and his wife and children were taken from him. Broken-hearted he returned to Texas just before the outbreak between that

territory and the mother country occurred, and immediately allied his fortunes with the Americans, becoming at once a colonel of Texas volunteers.

Colonel Bowie participated in almost every important skirmish and battle in the Texas war for independence. At Nacogdoches, at San Saba, in the grass fight, at the battle before Concepcion, at Goliad and finally at the fall of the Alamo he distinguished himself with such daring and bravery that he was the idol of his men and the dread of the enemy. As Santa Anna was burning the bodies of the heroes of the Alamo he at first ordered Bowie's buried, remarking that he was too brave a man to be burned like a dog. Later he rescinded the order, however, with a "Pues no es casa, escade!"—"Never mind, throw him in." The Mexican chieftain had been godfather to Ursalita Veramendi, whom Bowie had married.

Bowie was impulsive, brave, sensitive to an inordinate degree, endowed with a splendid physique and a clear mind. His early life had been characterized by the usual list of frontier brawls and excitements, in more than one of which his life had been seriously endangered and in several of which he had been wounded. He knew no fear, was courageous to rashness, acted first and thought afterwards as a younger man. His later life was thoughtful, noble, charitable and that of a man who, brave as a lion himself, recognized and admired the same element in others. Small wonder that he was adored by his men.

The knife which bears his name was given him by his brother upon the occasion of one of his Indian scouting, prior to his removal to Mexico.

From kinsmen of the fallen hero, Mr. S. J. Bowie of Anniston, Alabama, and Mr. H. B. Mackoy of Cincinnati, the data of Bowie's life and career have been secured. There is soon to be published a more extensive account of his life than is possible in the present little volume. For their kindness in permitting a review of advance manuscripts, whereby reliable and detailed information has been gained, the gratitude of the author is expressed.

HISTORICAL SKETCH NO. 3.

The room to the right of the entrance was the Baptistry when the Alamo was used as a mission. During the siege it was in this that six of the heroes took their last stand, after having been driven from room to room, there defending the sick and the women, who had taken refuge within.

The women were five in number, Mrs. Dickinson and her daughter, Mrs. Alsbury and sister, and Madam Candelaria, who was Colonel Bowie's nurse. The two first named were wives of patriots within the walls. What became of Mrs. Alsbury and sister history has not recorded.

It was in this chamber of death that Bowie met his fate. The latter had been moved into it, along with the women, just as the Mexicans were successfully scaling the walls. He was slain on his bed, fighting to the last. Crockett, the last to die, fell just outside the entrance, between the latter and the one next to it.



DOOR OF BAPTISTRY BEFORE WHICH CROCKETT FELL.

A MEMORABLE APPEAL.

An interesting incident in connection with the closing scene of the massacre is related in a memorable speech made by the Honorable Guy M. Bryan, a member of the legislature from Brazoria, advocating a joint resolution looking to the relief of the infant daughter of Almiram and Susannah Dickinson. Fired by the memory of the siege and battle of the Alamo, he spoke in behalf of the heroine's cause as follows :

"I had intended, Mr. Speaker, to remain silent upon this occasion. But silence would now be a reproach when to speak is but a duty. No one has raised his voice in behalf of this orphan child; several have spoken against her claim. I rise, Sir, as an advocate of no common cause. Liberty was its foundation, heroism and martyrdom have consecrated it. I speak for the orphan child of the Alamo. No orphan of the patriots can send up a similar petition to this house. None other can say, 'I am the child of the Alamo.'

"Well do I recollect the consternation which was spread throughout the land when the sad tidings reached our ears that the Alamo had fallen. It was here that a gallant few, the bravest of the brave, threw themselves between the enemy and the settlements, determined never to surrender or retreat. They redeemed their pledge to Texas with the forfeit of their lives. They fell the chosen sacrifice of Texan freedom.

"Texas, unapprised of the approach of the invader, was sleeping in fancied security when the big gun of the Alamo told that 'Atilla' of the South was near. In-

furiated by the resistance of Travis and his noble band, he halted his whole army beneath the walls and rolled wave after wave, surge after surge, of his mighty host against these storm battlements of freedom. In vain he strove. The flag of liberty, the Lone Star of Texas, still streamed out upon the breeze and proudly floated from the outer walls. Maddened, he pitched his tents and reared his batteries, and finally stormed and took a black and ruined wall, the blood-stained walls of the Alamo. The noble martyred spirits of every one of its gallant defenders had already taken their flight to another fortress, one not made of hands.

"The detention of the enemy enabled Texas to recuperate her energies, to prepare for the struggle in which freedom was the prize, slavery the forfeit. It enabled her to assemble upon the Colorado that gallant band, which but for Houston would then have fought and beat the enemy, and which eventually triumphed on the plains of San Jacinto and rolled back the tide of war upon the ruthless invader.

"But for that stand at the Alamo, Texas would have been desolated to the banks of the Sabine. Then, sir, in view of these facts, I ask this house to vote the pittance prayed for. To whom? To the living witness, and her mother, of this awful tragedy, 'the bloodiest picture in the book of time,' and the bravest act that ever swelled the annals of any country.

"Grant this boon. She claims it as the christened child of the Alamo, baptised in the blood of a Travis, a Bowie, a Crockett and a Bonham. It would be a



MONG S. BUILDING, GROUNDS, 1682, RECENTLY
MOVED INTO THE NEW LIBRARY



shame to Texas to turn her away. Give her what she asks, in order that she may be educated and become a worthy child of the State, and take that position in society to which she is entitled by the illustrious name of her martyred father, made illustrious because he fell in the Alamo.

"Crockett! Bowie! Travis! Bonham! Fannin! Remember the Alamo!"

HISTORICAL SKETCH NO. 4.

The burying ground, a large inner room of the hospital department or nave of the church, had no connection with the latter during the siege. It was originally dark, and in the small niche to the right of the entrance burned the holy light. This room connected with the monastery from the small archway in the right-hand corner, now walled in.

The number of monks buried beneath the floor of this room has never been ascertained, nor were their remains removed when the mission was vacated. A current report is that when the soldiers were quartered in the monastery they found several skulls and numerous bones within the sacristy.

The Sacristy adjoining was used as a powder magazine during the combat. The opening from this into the church was originally a large doorway which is now occupied by a small window. The original stone roof shows that this room was much longer than now, as the present partition intercepts a part of a second Moorish dome. Mission San Jose has three of these domes intact in its sacristy.

PART III.

SKETCH OF THE MISSIONS.

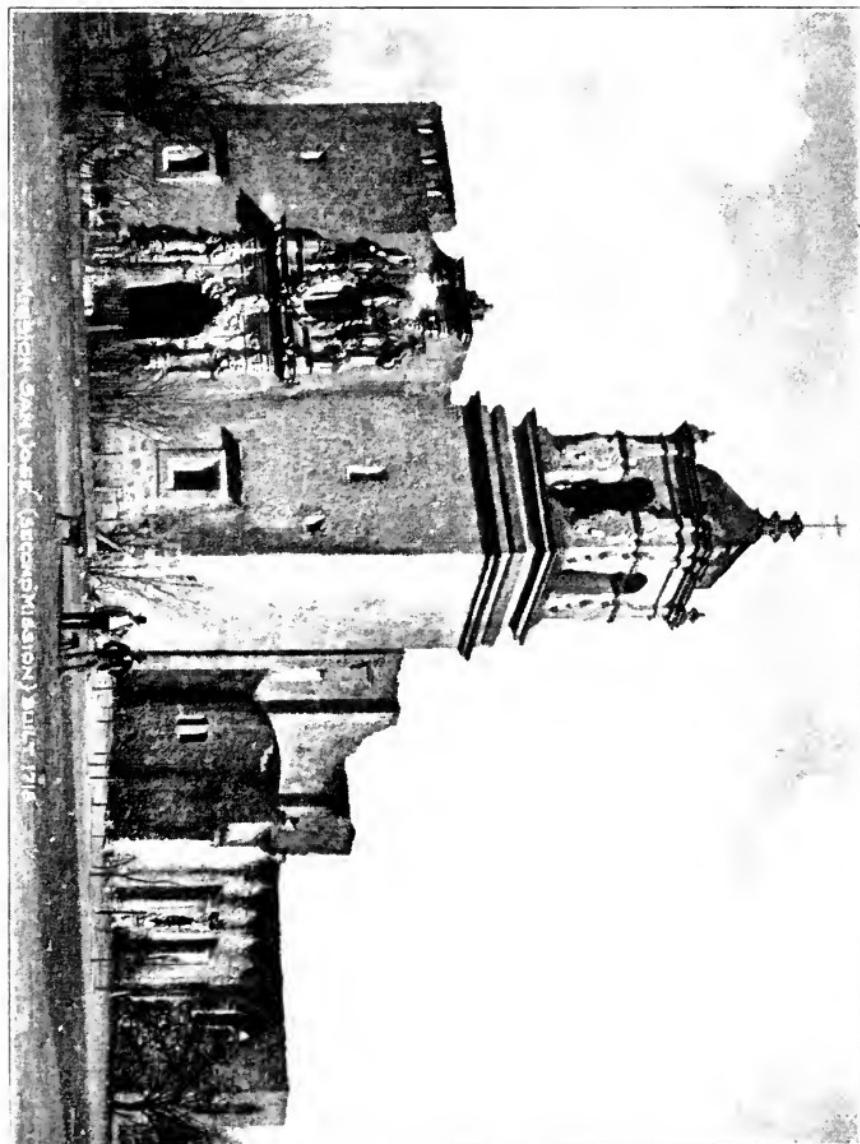
MISSION DE SAN JOSE.

The main door of the Alamo, which has already been mentioned, can be studied to better effect in the portal of Mission San Jose, known as the Second Mission, in order of distance from the city, four miles South of the Alamo, on the high ground West of the river.

It was established in 1718, but is now greatly in ruin. It was in a fair state of preservation until in 1868, when the nave and almost the entire North wall of the church fell in.

On the South a small room, originally a baptistry, capped by three Moorish domes, is used as a chapel. The window of this room is a work of art, highly carved in bas-relief, an exquisite piece of workmanship in its time. It still retains traces of great beauty.

The king of Spain sent Juan Huicar, one of the best architects of his day, to the frontier to decorate the exteriors of the more important missions, his best work finding expression in the main facade of the San Jose church.



MISSION SAN JOSE. THE SECOND MISSION.

This was never altogether finished, owing to Huiracurá's death. But it was nevertheless a facade of which any architect might well be proud, its grandeur producing a profound effect upon the minds of the Mexicans and Indians of the early times. Among its ornaments are full-size statues of Saints Joseph, Benedict, Augustine and Francisco, crowning them all being a figure of the Immaculate Conception.

Following upon the construction of the Alamo, or the Mission San Antonio de Velaro, as it was then called, and the Mission San Jose, foundations were laid for the Missions San Fernando, Concepcion, San Juan de Capistrano and San Franciscan de la Espada, in 1731.

San Fernando, the Main Plaza Cathedral of today, was used by Santa Anna as headquarters during the Siege of Bexar and Battle of the Alamo. Around it clustered a mission village of about fifteen hundred families, including a few Americans, these departing before hostilities began. The dome of this old mission is still well preserved, seen at its best from the Military Plaza side. Immediately beneath it is the present altar of the church.

The front of this mission was rebuilt in modern style in 1872, but nearly all of the rear part is the product of the Franciscan monks in the first quarter of the eighteenth century. It is situated in the very heart of the city and is the chief Mexican place of worship of San Antonio and surrounding country today. Attendance upon their weird services is one of the attractions to visiting Americans at the present time.

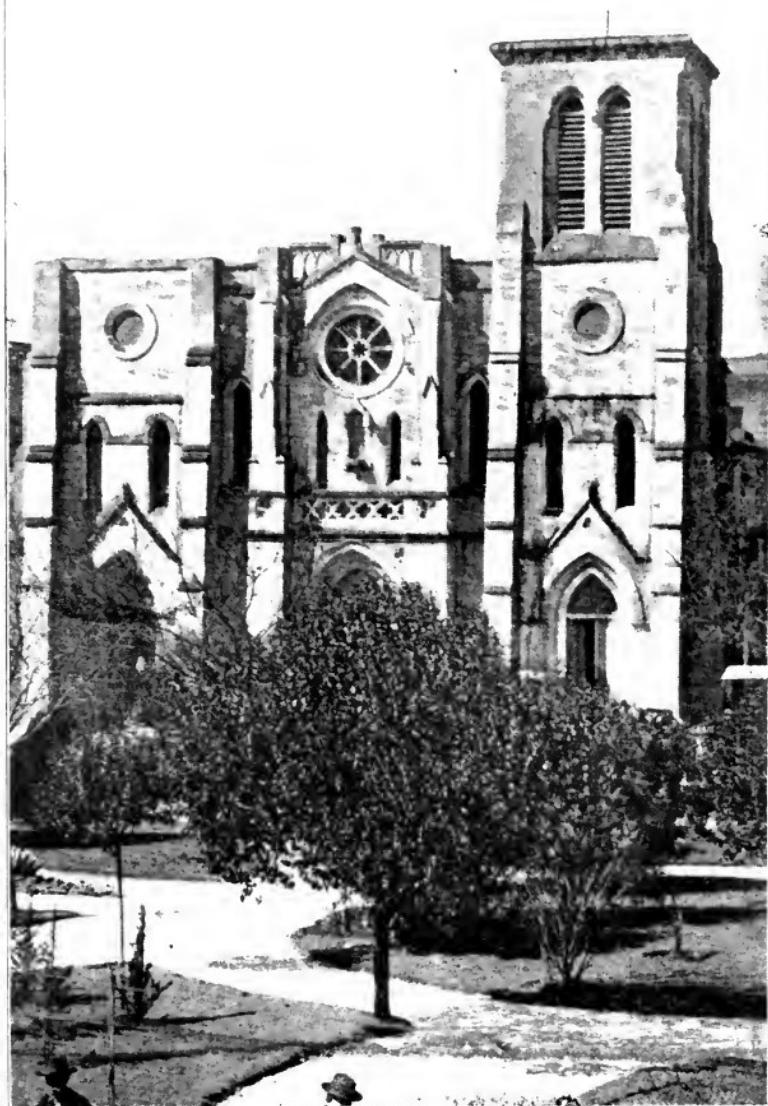
MISSION DE LA CONCEPCION.

i

The Mission of the Immaculate Conception, two miles South of the Alamo, has also its original dome, roof and organ loft. The interior of this is a miniature Alamo, and gives the visitor a better idea of the original construction and appearance of the interior of the latter, as also of its strength as a fortress. With walls free of windows except on the West this mission stands grim and gray, in a good state of preservation, its dark twin towers rising above the beautiful foliage of the surrounding country, from which floated out o'er the "Plains of Bexar" the message of bells, calling the Indian and settler to prayer, their echoes lost in silence on the gentle breezes of the perfume-laden prairies. Solitary and alone it is a strong living testimonial of the distant and eventful past.

In the room to the right of the entrance of this mission is an elaborate baptismal bowl, inserted in the wall, from which the little pappooses and Mexican muchachos received their first sacrament of holy water and priestly function.

The front of this mission was highly decorated in the brightest frescoing of which the Franciscans were capable, presumably for its effect upon the Indian mind. Close inspection reveals traces of this frescoing still, though the ravages of time and weather are making them gradually more and more indistinct. In 1887 Bishop Neraz, then in charge of the diocese of San Antonio, had the mission repaired and dedicated to "Our Lady of Loudres." It is leased to a German and



CATHEDRAL SAN FERNANDO.



MISSION SAN FERNANDO, 1791. ORIGINAL REAR VIEW.

his family, who charge a nominal fee for admission. Tourists will find a visit to the Mission Concepcion and that of San Jose, on the opposite side of the river, of gratifying interest.

MISSIONS SAN JUAN AND SAN FRANCISCAN.

The Missions San Juan Capistrano and San Franciscan de la Espada, respectively six and nine miles down the river, were named for monks, the former born in Capistrano, Italy, in 1386, the latter founder of the Franciscan Order of Assisi. These missions are smaller and plainer, and much of their walls have passed into decay. But a visit to them is full of information. They are picturesquely located, while the old stone viaducts on the west side of the river recall vividly those of Italy, Egypt and Spain.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MISSIONS.

The mission buildings are all constructed of stone found in their immediate vicinity, a light limestone which is easily worked and which hardens with exposure. The larger ones had immense granaries for storing the products of the Indian patches adjacent to them, while the irrigation ditches which were a part of the system gave them plenty of water in times of even the severest droughts, and made the mission spots oases in the Texas desert that were fair to look upon. Several of these ancient canals still course the blue waters of the river among the gardens of the city, while the granary at San Jose gives a very fair idea of the means the monks established for the care of

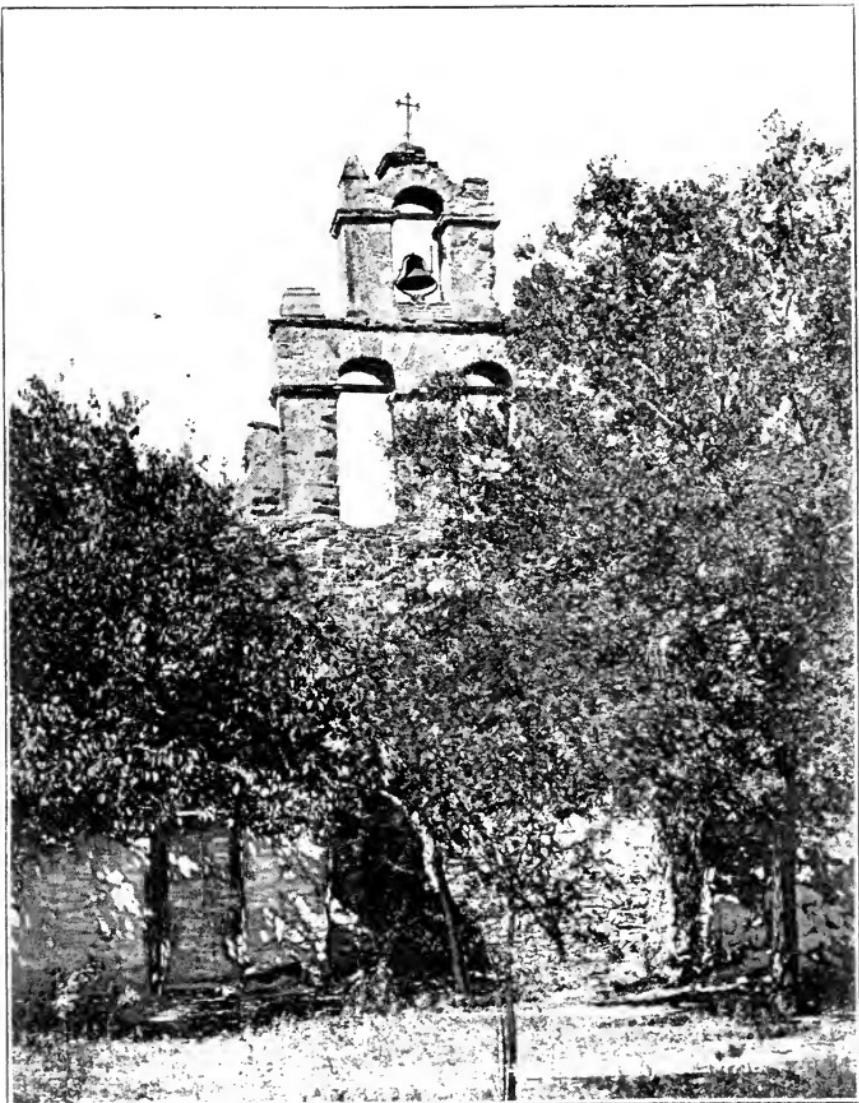
their products. The granary of the Alamo occupied the site of the park in front of the church, the protecting wall running North and South beyond the site of the Opera House and the stores on that side of the Plaza.

The North wall of the Alamo enclosure extended out into the middle of Houston street. It was two and a half feet thick and almost as high as the eaves of the church. It ran east as far as Dignowity hill, and as far to the South. A good many acres of ground were within the enclosure of the mission proper.

The Alamo, considered consecrated ground, together with the monastery to the North, were separated from the balance of the field by a dividing fence of stone, almost as strong and high as the outer wall.

Behind the church of the Alamo ran the ditch, and along its course grew stately cottonwoods, their leaves rustling gently in the breezes from the gulf, the music sounding like the pattering of a gentle rain. The ditch on which these grew was known as the Madre de Acequia, or Mother Ditch, the only means the mission had of obtaining water. It requires but little play of the imagination to think of those mighty cottonwoods stretching forth their great arms as if to shelter the church and the little band within while that awful carnage of death and destruction doomed the gallant band to their everlasting fate. The change of name from the Spanish Duke de Velaro to the local name of "The Alamo" seems most appropriate and poetic.

The Alamo stands in the midst of a civilization such as the world has ever known, yet separate and alone



MISSION SAN JUAN DE CAPISTRANO. 1731—THIRD MISSION.

with its dead. Among us, it is not yet of us. Its history is its own, and as it lives it holds aloft the record of deeds well done whereby the liberty of Texas was purchased at a price though dear yet borne by the martyrs without murmur or complaint.

“Remember the Alamo!
The very walls have voices—solemn tones,
And spirits pulse their breathing in thy stones;
Not moans, for when I place them to my ears
I hear the echo of Jacinto’s cheers,
On, On, Revenge the Alamo!”

Live on, speak on forever, thou glorious Alamo!

PART IV.

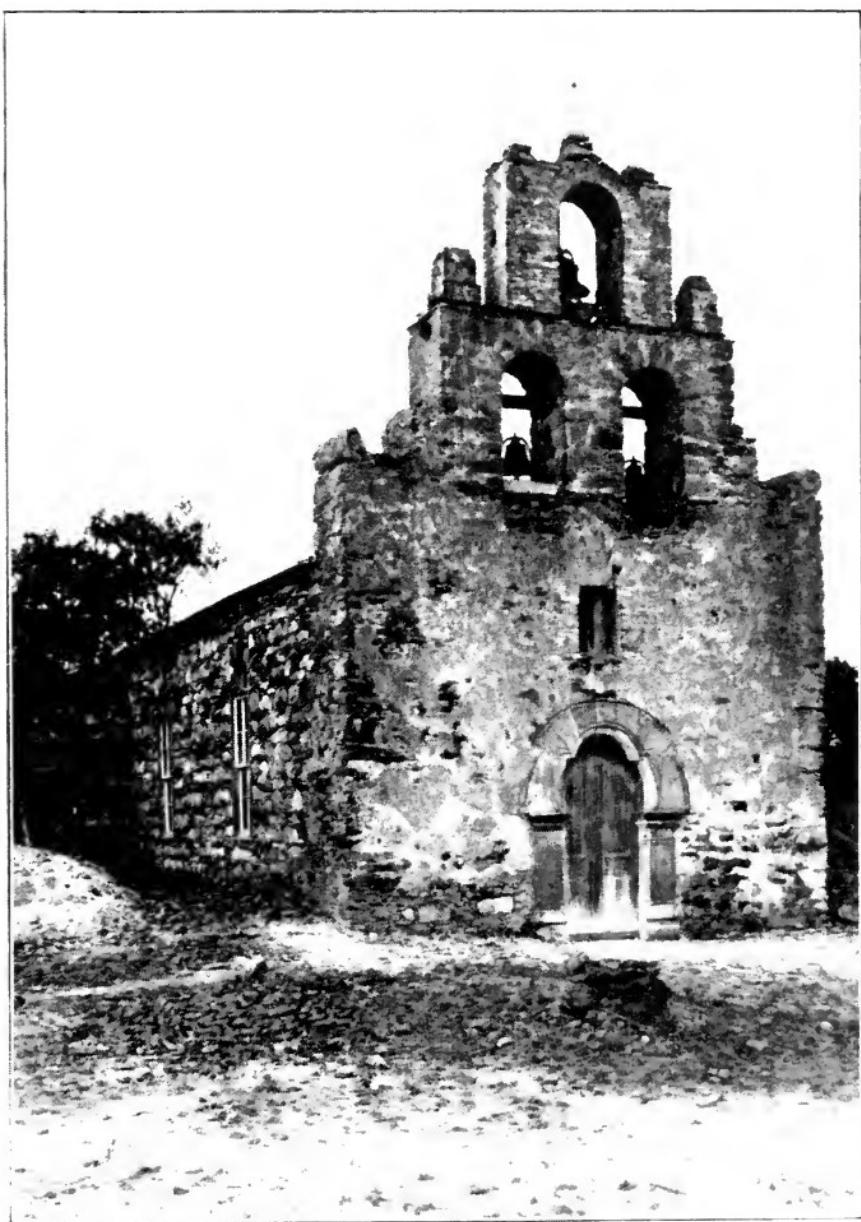
TRIBUTES TO THE HEROES OF THE ALAMO.

A TRIBUTE.

Reverently Inscribed to the Alamo and Its Illustrious Dead.

By GEO. D. EMERY, Minneapolis, Minn.

Tread softly in this sacred place
Twice dedicated unto God,
For martyrs of heroic race
Have sanctified it with their blood.
To teach the lessons of His faith
In pious love these stones were piled.
Ere Tyranny, with poisonous breath
Its holy altars had defiled,
Here bowed the monk in simple prayer,
Here beads were told and masses sung,
Hence over Bexar's plains afar
The bells of God their message rung.
And here when Liberty oppressed
Took refuge from the Tyrant's wrong
Her loyal sons with dauntless breast
Around her drew their cordon strong.
A Hero's soul in every eye,
Bright with a hero's purpose grand,
For Liberty, if need, to die
Or, living, in her name to stand.
Who reared these walls, 'neath smiling skies,
To spread the Gospel's peace afar
Ne'er dreamed an Empire here should rise
'Mid the wild hurricane of war.



MISSION DE LA ESPADA. 1731—FOURTH MISSION.

High blazoned on the scroll of Fame.
Forever stands Thermopylae,
And Balaklava's hills of flame
Far echo England's bravery;
But where shall prouder banners wave
In nobler triumph o'er its foes
Than where oppression found its grave
And Freedom's bright Lone Star arose?
These stains upon thy crumbling stones
Mark where those dying heroes fell
But ages hence in trumpet tones
Shall fame their glorious triumph tell.
Their leader drew with sacred blade
Upon the sand that fatal line—
“Who crosses this with me, he said
“For Liberty, leaves all behind,
“Flee those who can—come those who will,
“For where can death more welcome be
“Than where yon flag is waving still
“The emblems of the noble Free!
“Our leaguing foes, a score to one
“The mandates of the Tyrant bear
“Our help must come from God alone
“For man no longer heeds our prayer,
“Then come with me, who will to stand
“Where Honor's blood-stained pathway lies
“As, on the Altar of our Land,
“We lay a Freeman's sacrifice.”
Lit every eye with battle flame,
Blanched not one hero's cheek with fear,
But while Death called that Roll of Fame
Each ringing voice responded “Here!”
Brave hearts who heard that stirring call
And forward pressed with eager tread.
A rescued country mourns your fall
Who thus her priceless ransom paid.
For deeds like yours no fitter shrine
On earth's broad bosom could be found:
All temples reared to Love Divine
Are freedom's holiest battle ground.
Live on! Your names shall glory wreath
Where Freedom's fires shall brightest glow
And ages yet unborn shall breathe
The Spirit of the Alamo.

THE SIEGE OF THE ALAMO.

BY JAMES D. LYNCH.

THE OLD World has its glory, and it teems
With storied song and history's golden themes,
Whose notes still tune the living harp of time,
And thrill the patriot's heart in every clime.
But yet, the Old World has not all—the New
Can boast of its immortal themes, and view
With pride the glare of many a name
Which it has given to the scroll of fame.
'Mong those full high enrolled, let Texas tell
Of the New World's Leonidas—how fell
Brave Travis, how his comrades, at the call
Of glory, fell in one grand, glorious fall.
In her far borders under Bexar's skies,
Where the San Pedro takes its gushing rise,
Bosomed in landscapes of Elysian beam,
A fortress nestled near the emerald stream;
Where orisons were wont to wake the day,
But now the ensanguined scene of mortal fray.
Within its walls a chapel reared its shrine;
Around them Mexia demons drew their lines,
While Travis and his Texans held the post
Defiant of the fierce besieging host.
The thundering cannons swept the crimson ground,
While volleying muskets poured their hail around—
The vengeful missiles clanged the fortress walls;
Its little windows rained a shower of balls.
Five thousand men came on in curved array;
Less than two hundred held the force at bay.
Ten days and nights they urged their fierce attack.
Ten days and nights they reeled and staggered back.
Two hundred men, less twenty, aimed in front and fired,
Two hundred men, less forty, faced about and fired;
One hundred men, less twenty, faced to right and fired;
One hundred men, less forty, faced to left and fired;
Then forty men faced all around and fired.
And front, right, left and rear the foe retired.

Now twenty men received the last assault,
And caused the decimated foe to halt—
But stemming now the dwindling fusilade,
And overleaping scrap and palisade,
They thronged the walls and through the breaches poured,
And yet the Lone Star banner was not lowered.
Within, one thing remained—all else was lost—
To barter life for death at dearest cost.
“Blow up the fort!” undaunted Travis cried—
“Blow up the fort!” he gasped in death and died.
A faithful soldier hastened to obey,
But fell before the deed could crown the day—
With martial death the unequal combat end,
And friend and foe in one blank ruin blend.
Within the breach the last heroic ten
Now met the enemy—devoted men!
One moment more, one breath, one flash, now five
Alone of all those martyrs were alive,
Now four, now three, now two, now one, now none—
The Alamo’s red murderous work was done.
Live on, grow old, thou glorious Alamo!
Grow old in age, for thou canst never grow
Too old for fame; its wreaths will cling to thee,
Thou New World’s glorious Thermopylæ!
Live on, speak on, of heralds thou hadst none:
Thy tale is all thy own, but the bright sun
Was witness of thee, thy struggle, morning, noon,
And in the evening shade, the stars and moon
Beheld thee, and their pale, condoling beams
Yet mantle thee with still more weird dreams.
Thy very walls have voices—solemn tones,
And spirits pulse their breathing in thy stones.
Not moans, for when I place to them my ears
I hear the echo of Jacinto’s cheers:
On! On! Revenge the Alamo!”
Freedom and victory over every foe!
Live on, speak on, thou glorious Alamo!
In living strains proclaim thy tale of woe,
And let thy widowed walls to Texas tell
How her immortal heroes fought and fell;
Not in obedience to her sacred laws,
But love of freedom and of freedom’s cause,
Speak on while eons roll their ages by,
And tell our Texans how to live and die.

HYMN TO THE ALAMO.

BY CAPT. REUBEN M. POTTER, U. S. A.

"Rise! man the wall—our clarion's blast
Now sounds its final reveille—
This dawning morn must be the last
Our fated band shall ever see.
To life, but not to hope, farewell;
Your trumpet's clang, and cannon's peal,
And storming shout, and clash of steel
Is ours, but not our country's knell.
Welcome the Spartan's death—
'Tis no despairing strife—
We fall—we die—but our expiring breath
Is freedom's breath of life.

"Here on this new Thermopylæ
Our monument shall tower on high,
And 'Alamo' hereafter be
On bloodier fields the battle cry."
Thus Travis from the rampart cried.
And when his warriors saw the foe
Like whelming billows move below,
At once each dauntless heart replied:
"Welcome the Spartan's death—
'Tis no despairing strife—
We fall—we die—but our expiring breath
Is freedom's breath of life!"

"They come—like autumn leaves they fall,
Yet hordes on hordes they onward rush;
With gory tramp they mount the wall,
Till numbers the defenders crush.
The last was felled—the fight to gain—
Well may the ruffians quake to tell
How Travis and his hundred fell
Amid a thousand foemen slain.
They died the Spartan's death,
But not in hopeless strife;
Like brothers died—and their expiring breath
Was freedom's breath of life."

PART V.

THE HONORED DEAD.

A correct copy of a partial list of the names of those who fell in the "Alamo," March 6, 1836, on file in the Land Office at Austin, Texas, is herewith given:

NAME	RANK	WHERE FROM
W. Barrett Travis.....	Lt. Colonel.	Commandant*
James Bowie	"	South Carolina.
J. Washington	Captain	Logan County, Ky.
—— Forsyth	"	Tennessee
—— Harrison	"	New York
William Blazeley	"	Tennessee
Wm. C. M. Baker.....	"	Louisiana N. O. Greys
S. B. Evans.....	"	Mississippi
W. R. Carey.....	"	Texas
S. C. Blair.....	"	Texas
—— Gilmore	"	Tennessee
Robert White	"	
John Jones	Lieutenant	N. O. Greys
J. G. Baugh.....	Lt.-Adjutant	
Robert Evans	Lt.-Mast. Ord.	Ireland
—— Williamson	Sergt.-Major	
Charles Despalier	Aide to Travis	
Ellie Melton	Lt.-Q'rtmaster	
—— Anderson	Asst. "	
—— Burwell	" "	
Dr. Michison	Surgeon	
Dr. Amos Pollard.....	"	
Dr. Thompson	"	
Green B. Jemison.....	Ensign	Tennessee
David Crockett	Private	South Carolina
E. Nelson	"	Texas
—— Nelson	"	Nacogdoches
Wm. H. Smith.....	"	Trinity, Texas
Lewis Johnson	"	Georgia
E. P. Mitchell.....	"	Philadelphia, Pa.
F. Desanque	"	Kentucky
—— Thurston	"	Natchez, Miss.
—— Moore	"	
Christopher Parker	"	
C. Haskell	"	Nacogdoches
Moses Rose	"	Nacogdoches
Jno. Blair	"	Tennessee
David Wilson	"	
John M. Hays.....	"	
—— Stuart	"	Navidad, Texas
W. K. Simpson.....	"	New Orleans
W. D. Sutherland.....	"	New Orleans
Dr. W. Howell.....	"	
—— Butler	"	
Charles Smith	"	Scotland
—— McGregor	"	
—— Rusk	"	Ireland
Chas. Hawkins	"	
Sam'l Holloway	"	
—— Brown	"	
C. S. Smith.....	"	

THE HONORED DEAD—*Continued.*

NAME	RANK	WHERE FROM
Browne	Private	Philadelphia
Kedeson	"	Tennessee
Wm. Wells	"	Pennsylvania
Wm. Cummings	"	
Voluntine	"	
Cockran	"	
R. W. Valentine	"	
S. Holloway	"	
Isaac White	"	
Day	"	
Robert Muselman	"	New Orleans
Robert Crossman	"	New Orleans
Richard Starr	"	England
J. G. Garrett	"	
James Dimkin	"	England
Robert B. Moore	"	New Orleans
Wm. Linn	"	Boston
Hutchinson	"	
Wm. Johnson	"	Philadelphia
E. Nelson	"	
Geo. Tumlinson	"	
Wm. Deardorf	"	
Dan'l Bourne	"	
Ingram	"	England
W. I. Lewis	"	England
Johnston Linley	"	Wales
Micahjah Autry	"	
Lewis Duel	"	
Charles Zanco	"	Denmark
James Ewing	"	
Robert Cunningham	"	
S. Burns	"	Ireland
George Neggin	"	
J. B. Bonham	"	South Carolina
Robinson	"	Scotland
Marcus Sewell	"	(Shoe Maker)
Harriss	"	Kentucky
John Flanders	"	
Isaac Ryan	"	Opelousas
I. Jackson	"	Ireland
Almeron Dickinson	"	Gonzales
George C. Kimbell	"	Gonzales
James George	"	Gonzales
Dolphin Floyd	"	Gonzales
Thomas Jackson	"	Gonzales
Jacob Durst	"	Gonzales
George W. Cottle	"	Gonzales
Andrew Kent	"	Gonzales
Thomas R. Miller	"	Gonzales
Isaac Baker	"	Gonzales
William King	"	Gonzales
Jesse McCoy	"	Gonzales
Claiborne Wright	"	Gonzales
William Fishback	"	Gonzales
Isaac Millsaps	"	Gonzales
Galba Fuqua	"	Gonzales
John Davis	"	Gonzales
Albert Martin	"	Gonzales

See Certificate of B. Lochhart on
the original for these names.

THE HONORED DEAD—*Continued.*

NAME	RANK	WHERE FROM
John _____ B. A. M. Thomas.....	Private	Clerk to Disanque

The foregoing list is not included in the general certificate Feb. 17, 1839.

A list of the Gonzales Ranging Company of Mounted Volunteers, mustered into service on the 23rd day of February, 1836, by Byrd Lockhart, acting commissioner for that purpose and aid-de-camp to the acting Governor of Texas, attached to Travis' command :

NAME	RANK	REMARKS
George C. Kimbell.....	Lieutenant	Killed
William A. Irwin.....	1st Sergeant	Killed
Jesse McCoy	Private	Killed
William Fahbaugh	"	Killed
John G. King.....	"	Killed
Daniel McCoy, Jr.....	"	Killed
Jacob Durst	"	Killed
Frederick C. Elm.....	"	
Prospect McCoy	"	
M. L. Sewell	"	Killed
Robert White	"	Killed
John Ballard	"	
James Nash	"	
William Morrison	"	
Galba Fuqua	"	Killed
A. Devault	"	Killed
John Harriss	"	Killed
Andrew Kent	"	Killed
Isaac Millsaps	"	Killed
William E. Summers.....	"	Killed
David Kent	"	
John Davis	"	Killed

To these Mrs. Candelaria adds the following Mexicans :

Jose Marera Cabrera, Tula, Mexico.	Jose Maria Jimines, Mexico.
Elijo or Elias Losoyo, San Antonio, Texas.	— Jacinto, from the coast of Texas.

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